

The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes



Survey for reporting on promoting the “Environment for Europe” process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences*

1. Contact information

Please indicate the name, title, organization and country, as well as the contact data of the person who filled in the survey

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* This document has not been formally edited.

2. Progress in promoting the objectives of the “Environment for Europe” process

In the table below, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate. The boxes can be ticked by double-clicking on the box and choosing “checked” under the “default value” from the popping up window. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The EfE process continues to serve as a mechanism to:

(a) Improve the environment throughout the region, contributing to sustainable development which may in turn contribute to poverty eradication, to improving quality of life, and to a safer world

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...Weak implementation of the decisions adopted by EfE Conferences – better in European Union and worse in EECCA – was matter of discussions in front of the Belgrade Conference (2007). “Prioritised EfE policy” became the only response during preparations and the Astana Conference; that is reflected, among other, by strong official opposition regarding science-based suggestions to draft documents (e.g. water protection depends strongly on measures regulating the surface run-off in catchment area however relevant ECO-Forum suggestions had been refused during drafting in WGSO and further). There are no marks that “prioritisation” has led to better implementation of the EfE decisions. At the same time mechanisms to monitor the EfE decisions are absent.

(b) Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...There are no visible proves that EfE influences the implementation of national environmental policies at the national level namely, and / or strengthens these during the last 5-7 years. Step of such influence may be found in policies of some donors that concentrate their support on the water-related issues while other donors diminish environment-related programs. The most visible attempts to strengthen the national environmental policies relate to activities of the international organisations (e.g. OECD), programs (e.g. UNEP) and platforms (IPBES, IPCC) devoted to “green economy”, climate change, etc.

(c) Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals, and the prioritisation of environmental objectives

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

(d) Encourage the participation of civil society

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...In general, support to civil society declines. European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the European Union is considered as encouraging the public participation. Unfortunately, environmental NGOs are in

disadvantageous position in the ENPI being enforced to compete with authorities and governmental organisations, provide a co-financing that is much more available just for competitors while the ENPI programs are influenced by governments.

(e) Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...Horizontal environmental cooperation at the international level is provided by common environmental and agricultural policies, and some river basin agreements in the European Union. It is very low in EECCA where are a few successful examples e.g. creation (designation) of some transboundary biosphere reserves, signing of the new Moldovan-Ukrainian agreement on the Dniester River; at the same time fate of implementation of this agreement is unclear, true sharing and sustainable use of water resources of main rivers in Central Asia and also in Caucasus is still a great problem. World Bank, IUCN and WWF Program on Forest Law and Enforcement and Governance (ENPI-FLEG), financed by the EU, may be noted in this context though just international cooperation aspect is less known here. Lack of the horizontal environmental cooperation at the national level is the well known problem in the EECCA and is linked, among other, with recognized weakness of environmental ministries within governments. Such cooperation is provided by some projects financed through the Global Environmental Facility although that is not linked with the EfE process. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS - Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity now) – specific pan-European instrument is crucial on the backgrounds of (a) some increasing divergence between the EU and EECCA and (b) growing challenges (climate change and biodiversity loss) undermining the human future. Namely, that instrument was totally neglected at the Astana Conference.

3. Progress in promoting the political priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process

In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in promoting the EfE political priorities, based on commitments already made under the EfE process, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. Please tick the box that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country. Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The progress (in your country) on EfE political priorities may include:

<p>(a) Improvement of environmental governance, including strengthening environmental institutions and implementation of policy instruments (by your country)</p> <p>– improvement of environmental governance:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– strengthening environmental institutions:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– implementation of policy instruments:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
<p>(b) Streamlining the implementation by your Government of commitments made to existing UNECE legally-binding and legally non-binding instruments</p> <p>Overall assessment:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
<p>Air Pollution Convention and its Protocols</p>	<p>– Status (more than one box can be ticked)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>

	<p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Water Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on Water and Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>

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	<p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on Civil Liability</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Espoo Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Protocol on SEA</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>

	<p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
Aarhus Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
Protocol on PRTRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <p><input type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports)

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	<input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Strategy for ESD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal reporting (national implementation reports) <input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
THE PEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting (responding to THE PEP survey on progress in the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals) <input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
<p>(c) Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring</p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i>	

...	
Production of indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports	<input type="checkbox"/> never produced / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> producing occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> producing regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
<p>(d) Ensuring implementation of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme</p> <p>Overall assessment of your country’s role:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> not active / <input type="checkbox"/> active as donor / <input type="checkbox"/> active as reviewed country / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...	
Participation in the EPR process as a reviewed country in the future	<input type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Participation in the EPR process as a donor country (in-kind and/or providing financial support)	<input type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> on-going / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Implementation of EPR recommendations by the reviewed country	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
<p>(e) Raising public awareness on environmental issues</p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...	
Ensuring public access to environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i>

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information	...
Ensuring public participation in environmental-decision making	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Ensuring public access to environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
<p>(f) Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness</p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...	
Mainstreaming the environment into economic development	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Implementing environmental policies through economic/market instruments (e.g. phasing out subsidies, introducing environmental taxation, payment for ecosystems services, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Implementing environmental policies through regulatory/normative instruments (e.g. norms, standards, bans, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> ...
Implementing environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i>

policies through information based/voluntary instruments (e.g. labelling, etc.)	...
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4. Progress in strengthening the implementation of outcomes of the Astana Efe Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in implementing the commitments made at the Astana Conference. Please tick the box that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country. Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

The main outcomes of the Astana Conference include:

<p>(a) Ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) <i>(by your country)</i></p> <p><i>Please provide additional information, as relevant, that was not provided under section 3(b) (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>(b) Implementing the Astana Water Action <i>(by your country)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented/ <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>(c) Promoting a green economy <i>(by your country)</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented/ <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>Promoting the Green Bridge Partnership Programme <i>(by your country)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented/ <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>(d) Ensuring implementation of the <u>third cycle</u> of environmental performance reviews (EPRs) <i>(by your country)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> active as donor / <input type="checkbox"/> active as reviewed country / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>

(e) Establishing a regular process of environmental assessment (RPEA), including developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) (by your country)

not started / initiated / in progress / SEIS developed / RPEA established

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

(f) Participation in the continued work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force), including on the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (by your country)

not foreseen / active as donor / active as beneficiary / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

Participation in strengthening the contribution of Regional Environmental Centres (RECs) in both promoting green economy and better environmental governance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels (by your country)

not foreseen / active as donor / active as beneficiary / N/A

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

5. Thematic priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process for the Eighth Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please indicate thematic priorities that might be addressed at the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, including a brief justification note for each proposed priorities. Please also indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the proposed several themes, as well as organising a high-level segment on MEAs and the proposed theme. Please kindly note that the idea to organize a high-level segment on MEAs emerged from the discussion at the informal meeting of representatives of governing bodies of MEAs and CEP (Geneva, 27 February 2013).

First thematic priority (an “established” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addressed the “established” theme sustainable management of water and water related ecosystems)

Please propose a theme: ...

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

Second thematic priority (an “emerging” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addresses the “emerging” theme greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development)

Please propose a theme: ...Mainstreaming the major ecosystem services in the national accounting systems: searching the ways on the background of different economics development.

<p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...This is one of the major challenges for greening the economy because support to sustainability of ecosystems that provide human population with food, oxygen, soil and water protection is not assessed by economy. Currently developing Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity provide and progress a methodological basis for this theme. However practical ways for incorporation of that direction in national economy systems are problematic. At the same time the Outcome of the United Nations Rio+20 Conference “The future we want” (doc. A/CONF.216/L.1), which highlights the vital importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development and human well-being, has created juridical link between biodiversity services and human rights. Therefore that direction should be prioritised through the EfE process.</p>	
<p>Enhancing the work on greening the economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Astana EfE and Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...That is important but secondary theme relatively the theme “Need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, the on-going crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region”. These both themes should be combined.</p>
<p>Promoting a sustainable consumption and production</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>“Greening” International Financial Institutions (IFIs) policies</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Resilience and Change</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to encompass the need for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness and contingency planning to be ready for both environmental and demographic change in the coming years, i.e., the expected increase in extreme weather events due to global warming, but also to the foreseen changes in demographics (aging populations and south-north migration), in particular in urban areas)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...Current prospects and forecasts make this theme the most important taking into account enough short expectation period, probable period of implementation of adaptation measures,</p>

	<p>continuous economic crisis, low readiness of many governments to implement these measures step by step on the basis of mid- and long term plan, as well as still “transitional period” in EECCA and some EU countries.</p>
<p>Organizing a high-level segment on assessing the progress in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing the SEIS across the region</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
<p>Organizing a high-level segment on UNECE MEAs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...Harmonisation of MEAs reporting is currently developing important but limited theme. This direction will be developed following existent appointments. That means it may be politically strengthened by EfE; though, there is nothing to discuss politically. At the same time increasing the political will to follow and better implementing the MEAs and also developing the specific European instruments as the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity are conditioned by climate change and biodiversity loss challenges, strong need of adaptation as well as, politically, follow the Outcome of the United Nations Rio+20 Conference “The future we want”.</p>	
<p>Role of public participation in effective implementation of MEAs</p>	<p>A possible theme for a possible high-level segment on UNECE MEAs (of relevance to all UNECE MEAs)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...This role of public participation was never assessed properly. It varies strongly dependently of country conditions, MEAs and environmental directions, donors policies etc. The great challenges for sustainable development including economy states and trends, biodiversity loss, climate change, demography and feed resources require mobilisation of governmental, intergovernmental, business and civil society efforts. That emphasizes significance of this theme for future human well-being.</p>
<p>Need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, giving the on-going crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
<p>Greening the economies</p>	<p>Elaboration of subregional roadmaps (e.g. EU, SEE, Central Asia, Caucasus, Eastern Europe)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...European ECO Forum suggested that item in its statement at the Astana Conference</p>

	<p>insisting on NGOs involvement in preparation of roadmaps in order to make it realistic and viable, based on true information and participation of independent experts. There is threat that such elaborations may be done in formal style by some international organisations (e.g. UNDP) influenced by governments and corruptive relations. Unfortunately green economy is (or was) out of priorities of the Eastern Partnership and EfE process could improve that situation. Elaboration of subregional roadmaps should be strategic direction of cooperation of environment and economy ministries with civil society organisations and science including the sectoral science.</p> <p>Elaboration/harmonization of regional eco-standards for products and production processes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...One may say that is a logical item; however regional eco-standards is not a direction that may influence the key problem of incorporation of environmental considerations in economy and true implementation of principle “pollutant pays” in the style stimulating a cleaner production.</p> <p><i>Other (please suggest demand-driven frameworks/structures)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>
<p>Strengthening implementation of ESD</p>	<p>Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational training to meet future labour market demand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...That is true but rather technical issue. Namely future labour market demand should be formed through greening the economy systems.</p> <p>Mainstreaming ESD into teachers/educators’ training</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>... That is a true issue. However such education has no the strategic meaning for greening the economy.</p> <p>Implementing an ESD school plan in every school (i.e. addressing campus management, curricula and community interaction)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>... That is a true issue. However such education has no the strategic meaning for greening the economy. Moreover, it may have a negative influence in the countries where school programs are overloaded that affect pupils health.</p>

Strengthening environmental considerations in other social and economic sectors	<p>Sustainable urban development (e.g. bringing together the relevant activities under THE PEP, Environment and Health process, and green building)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>

6. Format of the Eighth EUE Ministerial Conference

In the table below, please, indicate/propose an interactive format for the next Conference.

Provide an explanation, as appropriate.

<p>Interactive format for the Conference (for a more productive ministerial participation)</p> <p><i>Please propose an interactive format(s) to stimulate the work of the Conference:</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
Parallel thematic round-tables	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...It is very important format, though Astana Conference had demonstrated that effectiveness is very dependent on moderator’s attitude. Principle free governmental voices versus one NGO voice discourages round-table that is especially visible when governmental interventions deviate too much from the round-table topic while NGOs cannot influence discussion in a constructive way. Therefore more balanced rules should be applied in order to avoid simulation of public participation and neglecting their contributions.</p>
Interactive discussions e.g. similar to “BBC Question Time”	<p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...Such discussions require professional and very balanced moderation. There is strong threat that such discussions being moderated by international organisation will be managed in a spread style when “discussion” is turned out from some planned interventions while time for free expressions of opinions is very limited.</p>
[please propose an interactive format]	<p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...</p>

7. Any other issues you consider important

[please include any issues relevant to the scope of this survey that you may wish to address ...] Correspondence of EfE to Rio+20 Outcome and ways to a progress mobilizing the financial and institutional capacities.

Please elaborate:

... EfE process should be better mainstreamed to the current needs and challenges, and avoid a rolling games as response to deficient implementation. That includes attraction of more attention of the European donors to the issues that determine future European resilience better and survival of human population. That includes better coordination of national facilities, mechanisms including those to be constructed and financial capacities.

