

Committee on Environmental Policy

Online, 3 November 2021

Agenda Item 4: The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

(c) Pan-European environmental assessment



Pan-European environmental assessment



Process:

- **Process & timeline**
- **Final outline and progress**
- **Progress with environmental topics and conference themes**
- **Financial resources**
- **Writers, reviewers and providers of inputs**
- **Next steps – on content and presentation**

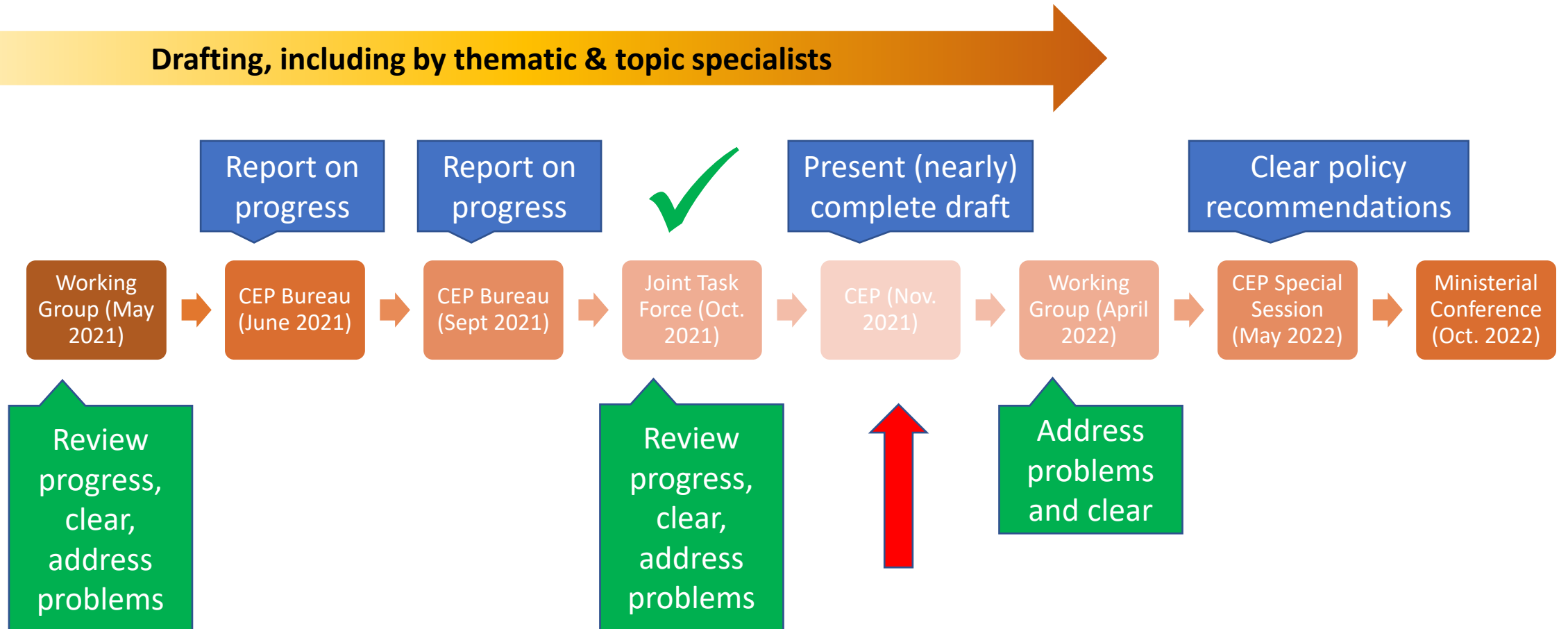
Substance:

- **Summary for policymakers**

Process & timeline



Drafting, including by thematic & topic specialists



Final outline of the pan-European environmental assessment



Draft key findings and recommendations / Summary for policymakers	incomplete draft	in INF #4 document, English only
Chapter I – Setting the scene	incomplete draft	in informal document, in English
Chapter II – Regional context and developments as drivers of environmental change	incomplete draft	in informal document, in English
Chapter III – Environmental state and trends	7 topics complete, but small revisions being made 1 topic being drafted still	6 topics as official documents, English & Russian (2 per document), ECE/CEP- CES/GE.1/2021/6, 7 and 8
Chapter IV – Themes for 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference		
A. Sustainable infrastructure	complete	in informal document, English
B. Sustainable tourism	to be revised	official document, English & Russian, ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2021/5
Chapter V – Strengthening environmental governance	incomplete draft	in informal document, in English
Chapter VI – Way forward	incomplete draft	informal, in English

Progress in assessing themes



Theme	Indicators	Draft section	Completed
III.A. Air pollution and ozone depletion	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.B. Climate change	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.C. Fresh water	Agreed		
III.D. Coastal waters, marine ecosystems and oceans	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.E. Biodiversity and ecosystems	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.F. Land and soil	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.G. Chemicals and waste	Agreed	Yes	Yes
III.H. Environmental financing	Agreed	Yes	
IV. A. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure	Agreed	Yes	Yes
IV.B. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism	Yes	Yes	First version

Resources



Contributions	Approx. (\$)		Expenditures	Approx. (\$)
Austria, €16,000	18,720		Consultants & procurement (substance)	
Germany, €10,000	11,737		Disbursed, committed or being prepared	74,400
Netherlands, approx. €20,000	23,400		Anticipated (<i>approx.</i>)	4,000
Norway, approx. \$4,800	4,800			
Serbia, €5,000	5,869		Presentation and promotion	
Switzerland, \$30,000	30,000		Editing, layout/graphics, additional translation, video? etc. (<i>approx.</i>)	13,500
UN Regular Budget	9,500		Programme support costs	13%
	104,026			

Names are listed alphabetically

Writers



António Guerreiro de Brito (University of Lisbon)	Nikolai Dronin (Moscow State University)
Claudette Spiteri	Olivera Kujundzic (Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning & Urbanism of Montenegro)
Cornelius Braams	Saraly Andrade De Sa (University of Geneva)
Cristina Contreras (Harvard University)	Sigrid Kusch-Brandt (University of Southampton & Ulm University of Applied Sciences)
José de Bettencourt	Tobias Garstecki
Jos van der Sterren, Paul Peeters, Eke Eijgelaar and Tamina Reinecke (Breda University of Applied Sciences)	

Names are not listed in any order

Reviews and inputs



UNECE: Christine Kitzler, Kristof Douçot, Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon, Carolin Sanz Noriega, Indira Urazova, Angela Sochirca, Jose Palacin Lucio, Anelia Rambosson and Apolline Louvert.

UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section:
Roman Michalak.

UNEP: Marika Palosaari, Rie Tsutsumi, Dominic MacCormack, Rowan Palmer, Helena Rey De Assis, Tomas Marques and Matthew Billot.

OECD: Krzysztof Michalak.

UNWTO: ?

Members of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, in particular Yuri Tsaturov (Russian Federation).

Cécile Roddier-Quefelec (European Environment Agency) and Joana Mira Veiga.

Maps: Laura Poggio and Rik van den Bosch, ISRIC–World Soil Information; Alex Zvoleff and Gabriel Daldegan, Conservation International; and Sara Minelli, UNCCD Secretariat.

Next steps (content)



- Issue second contract on “tourism”, await “freshwater”
- Clear remaining draft sections – with consultation
- Finalize description of “drivers” and other common elements
- Complete integration, considering also Conference themes (& COVID-19)
- Align with thematic background documents (coherence)
- Finalize “governance” chapter and summary for policymakers

Next steps (presentation)



- Compile complete document, and harmonize design and layout
- Revise data in 2022, to end 2021
- Complete translation
- Prepare as publication

- Possible extras:
 - Generate online annex with national data and trends
 - Prepare extended background documents online, for reference
 - Consider promotional materials for Ministerial Conference

Summary for policymakers



- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Decarbonization
- Ecosystems
- Protected areas
- Land use
- Marine protection
- Coastal waters and marine ecosystems

- Air quality
- Waste management
- Chemicals
- Disaster risk reduction
- Finance
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Tourism and the circular economy
- Monitoring

Covers seven environmental topics, sustainable infrastructure plus monitoring in an integrated manner, with limited text so far on tourism

Summary for policymakers



1. Greenhouse gas emissions

All pan-European countries commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but net emissions in the region are still rising. Efforts and achievements are unevenly distributed throughout the region.² Reductions, which are mostly achieved in the western part of Europe (2014–2018), are three times less than the increase in emissions in the rest of the region. National commitments under the Paris Agreement were renewed by 35 countries in the region with more ambitious targets. However, some countries still do not have firm, quantifiable commitments or mechanisms to follow the progress towards them, which results in significant data gaps.

Recommendation: Governments in the pan-European region should establish the conditions for medium- and long-term sustainable mobilization of funds for climate action both by accelerating the use of available regional and global funds and mechanisms and by creating national financial instruments.

	European Union	Western Europe	Central Asia	Eastern Europe	South-Eastern Europe	Pan-European region
Greenhouse gas emissions (2014–2018) (percentage change)	→ (-0.3%)	↗ (-9.2%)	↘ (+13%)	↘ (+4.0%)	↘ (+12%)	↘ (+1.7%)

Note: trend is ↗ improving (emissions falling), → stable or ↘ worsening.

Summary for policymakers



- Next steps
 - Additions for freshwater
 - Additions for applying the principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism
 - Refinement for sustainable infrastructure
 - Additions from governance chapter
 - Graphic elements for finance, sustainable infrastructure and tourism, perhaps governance
 - Review of older data ranges to provide more recent values, verification of data

Thank you!



Possible Committee decisions



- Expresses its appreciation to those member States that have provided financial contributions to support preparation of the next assessment, namely Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland
 - Expresses its appreciation also to the individual authors for their drafts and to:
 - UNEP, OECD, UNWTO, UNCCD, Conservation International and ISRIC–World Soil Information
 - members of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, and the UNECE secretariat
- for the further development of the draft pan-European environmental assessment

Possible Committee decisions



- Welcomes the draft elements of the assessment and takes note of the progress made, timeline and next steps for its completion, and decides to provide comments on the draft elements provided, in particular the draft summary for policymakers, by 30 November 2021
- Requests the secretariat to make available to it the remaining and updated elements, at the latest by 15 February 2022, and decides to provide comments to the secretariat on remaining and updated elements within one month of receipt
- Requests the secretariat to continue to inform the Bureau of progress made.