

ENVIRONMENT



The Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the possibilities to contribute to it

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Tenth meeting
Seminar on sustainable infrastructure





Environment for Europe (EfE): History



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- EfE process launched in 1991
- Has been supporting countries' efforts to advance in environmental governance
- Unique partnership of:
 - Member States within the ECE region
 - Organizations of the United Nations system represented in the region
 - Other intergovernmental organizations and bodies
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - The private sector
 - Other major groups
- ECE has been closely associated with the EfE process since its inception and serves as its secretariat

EfE: the Process



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- The EfE process and its ministerial conferences provide an effective high-level platform for stakeholders
- At the same time, the process focuses on supporting the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to raise environmental standards and comply with international commitments
- The process continues to provide the framework for the development of:
 - governance policies and initiatives
 - legal instruments and policies
 - practical actions and tools
- Member States in lead
- Conference organizing: Committee on Environmental Policy (since 2009)
- Secretariat: UNECE

30 years of EfE process: Outcomes



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- The ECE Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews;
- The ECE programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;
- The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
- The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention);
- The Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- The Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol;
- The ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;
- The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context;
- The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention;
- The Protocol on Civil Liability to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention);
- The Environment Strategy for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries;
- The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
- Political initiatives, e.g. the latest:
 - Astana Water Action (AWA) – 2011-2016
 - Batumi Initiative on Greening the Economy (BIG-E) – 2016-2030
 - Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) – 2016-2022
- a series of guidelines and recommendations to Governments.

8 (+1) Ministerial Conferences 1991-2022



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- 1991 – Dobris (then Czechoslovakia)
- 1993 – Sofia (Bulgaria)
- 1995 – Lucerne (Switzerland)
- 1998 – Aarhus (Denmark)
- 2003 – Kyiv (Ukraine)
- 2007 – Belgrade (Serbia)
- 2011 – Astana (Kazakhstan)
- 2016 – Batumi (Georgia)

- 2022 – **EfE-9**, Nicosia (Cyprus)

9th EfE Ministerial Conference: Figures



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- Planned to be held 05-07 October 2022 in Nicosia, the Republic of Cyprus
- > 700 registered delegates expected (excluding UNECE and Host Country)
- More than 40 national delegations from the UNECE region, plus several Mediterranean countries
- UN- and other international organizations
- NGOs, academia, business
- About 30-40 side-events
- Thematic exhibitions

9th EfE Ministerial: Themes & outcomes

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themes

1. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable Infrastructure
 2. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism
- + Session on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

key outcomes

- ✓ Ministerial Declaration
- ✓ Chair's Summary
- ✓ BIG-E (Batumi Initiative on Green Economy) – continuation/update
- ✓ ...

9th EfE Ministerial Conference:

Why inputs



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- The opportunity to take stock of the work accomplished both by the Member States and by international organizations
- EIA and SEA are of the direct relevance
- Highlight
- Partnerships
- Voluntary commitments (BIG-E...)

9th EfE Ministerial Conference: possible inputs into **Outcomes**



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- [ECE/CEP/2021/7]
- A chairperson's summary
- Statements, initiatives, agreements, pledges by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and/or for specific subregions
- An agreed outcome on follow up and further actions (Declaration...)
- [Non-negotiated] Policy tools, including strategies, action plans with time frames, guidelines, recommendations, best practices and lessons learned that are presented to the Conference by interested countries of the UNECE region and/or organizations

9th EfE Ministerial Conference: possible inputs into Documents



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- The Conference documents:
 - (a) official substantive documents;
 - Draft Ministerial Declaration
 - Draft thematic document for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: *Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure*
 - » 51. Collaborate with key stakeholders on stimulus approaches and capacity building efforts to develop sustainable infrastructure and promote sustainability of grey and brown infrastructure. ...
 - » Additionally, UNEP, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, UNECE's working group on EIA and SEA and UNECE's Pan-European Assessment team should keep collaborating to promote the right policy recommendations.

9th EfE Ministerial Conference: possible inputs into Documents

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- The Conference documents:
 - (b) information documents
 - Information documents are background, informational and analytical documents of direct relevance to the Conference agenda submitted by the Environment for Europe partners and other interested stakeholders.
 - The list of background, informational and analytical documents of direct relevance to the Conference agenda that are submitted by the Environment for Europe partners and other interested stakeholders will be made available for information to the special session of the Committee on Environmental Policy in May 2022.

Deadlines for Registration



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<i>Participants</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Deadline for submission</i>
Government delegations	Via email to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
Intergovernmental organizations	Via email to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
NGOs	European ECO-Forum will submit the list of NGO delegation to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
Major international NGOs	Via email to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
Business	Via email to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
Other civil society representatives	Via email to the ECE secretariat	30 June 2022
Mass media	Via email (or other means to be determined) to the host country secretariat	31 July 2022

Deadlines for Substantive documents



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<i>Languages, format and purpose of submission</i>	<i>Type of processing or reproduction to be carried out</i>	<i>Deadlines for submission</i>
In English, ^a for the Committee on Environmental Policy special session (10–12 May 2022)	For processing by United Nations Division of Conference Management	1 March 2022
In English, French and Russian, for the Committee on Environmental Policy special session (10–12 May 2022)	For reproduction in electronic format by United Nations Division of Conference Management	29 March 2022
In English, French and Russian, for the Committee on Environmental Policy special session (10–12 May 2022)	For posting on the Committee on Environmental Policy website	29 March 2022
In English, ^b for the Conference	For processing by United Nations Division of Conference Management	26 July 2022
In English, French and Russian, for the Conference	For reproduction in electronic format by United Nations Division of Conference Management	23 August 2022
In English, French and Russian for the Conference	For posting on the Conference website	23 August 2022

Deadlines for Information & Outcome documents



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<i>Languages, format and purpose of submission</i>	<i>Type of processing or reproduction to be carried out</i>	<i>Deadlines for submission</i>
Information documents		
In English, ^c final titles and electronic versions, for the Committee on Environmental Policy special session (10–12 May 2022)	For compiling the list of information documents and posting on the Committee on Environmental Policy website	1 March 2022
In English, ^d final versions for the Conference	For posting on the Conference website	23 August 2022
Conference outcomes		
In English, ^e draft electronic versions, for the Committee on Environmental Policy special session (10–12 May 2022)	For posting on the Committee on Environmental Policy website	29 March 2022
In English, ^f draft electronic versions approved by Committee on Environmental Policy for the Conference	For posting on the Conference website	23 August 2022

Deadlines for Side events and exhibitions



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<i>Registration format</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Deadline for submission</i>
Completed registration forms for side events	Via email (or other means to be determined) to the host country secretariat	30 April 2022

Possible tips: **Conference preparations and proceedings**



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- Preparing the Conference:
 - Establish working contacts within your national government authorities responsible for the country's preparations for the EfE-9;
 - Through your representatives, propose inputs and contributions to the above mentioned Conference documents and outputs to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy;
 - Consider proposing to take voluntary commitments (incl. the activities already planned to be implemented) under the BIG-E initiative;
 - Etc.
- During the Conference:
 - Provide input into your delegations' planned speeches and interventions during the thematic sessions/panel discussions;
 - Highlight the role of the Protocol and the Convention in promoting sustainable infrastructure;
 - Consider organizing/co-organizing side events
 - Etc.

More information at:



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- www.unece.org – UNECE secretariat
- Materials and documents for EfE-9 under development and possible input as mentioned above:
<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Committee-on-Environmental-Policy/events/357297> (27th Annual Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy)
- Deadlines and other logistical/background information: “Organizational issues for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference” (ECE/CEP/2021/7 - <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ece.cep.2021.7.e.pdf>)



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Thank you for attention!