

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-fourth session, Geneva and online, 11-12 April 2022

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the hybrid meeting

Summary of decisions and recommendations



Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

- The Working Group adopts the agenda as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2022/1

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the report of the twenty-third session

- The Working Group adopts the report of the twenty-third session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/2.

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 3: Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

The Working Group:

- Takes note of the decisions made by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-seventh session
- Requests the secretariat to continue to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the activities on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting
- Adopts the timetable of activities for 2023 as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2022/3, as amended during the session

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 3: Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

The Working Group:

- Expresses appreciation to those countries at present supporting financially the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programme – Austria, Switzerland and the European Union
- Expresses appreciation also to those countries that have supported the preparation of the pan-European environmental assessment to date – Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland
- Requests its members and the secretariat to continue their fundraising efforts to enable the full implementation of activities planned for 2022-2023, including the finalization of the pan-European environmental assessment and the holding of the next sessions of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators and the Working Group

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 3: Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

The Working Group:

- Welcomes the draft elements presented for the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference for the Working Group for mid-2023 until mid-2028
- Requests the secretariat to integrate the results from the survey and the discussion during the session and to present a draft version of the mandate and terms of reference at its next meeting

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 4: Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment

The Working Group:

- Welcomes the key messages and recommendations from the final progress review report on the establishment of SEIS in Europe and Central Asia as contained in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/6 and the draft pan-European environmental assessment
- Decides to provide additional comments on the proposed additional key messages and recommendations within two weeks and, if comments are provided, requests the secretariat to circulate a revised version for approval by a silence procedure over a further period of two weeks
- Requests the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the outcomes of this agenda item and to forward the key messages and recommendations to the Ninth-Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference together with the SEIS final review report and the pan-European environmental assessment

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 4: Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment

The Working Group:

- Suggests to review the environmental theme air in 2023, by using the Shared Environmental Information System assessment framework and possibly the online reporting tool, while employing the revised UNECE environmental Indicators.
- Requests the secretariat to assess the possibility of organizing a regional training event on the revised indicators, particularly those related to the air theme, possibly within the framework of the new EU-funded programme “EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data”.
- Welcomes the proposal to organize a side event during the upcoming Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference on the topic of the Shared Environmental Information System.
- Welcomes the offer of Austria to take the lead in organizing the side event in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, UNECE and UNEP.
- Requests the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the outcomes of this agenda item.

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 1



Agenda item 5: Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

The Working Group:

- Welcomes the full draft of the next pan-European environmental assessment and its summary for policymakers
- Takes note of the final steps needed and the timeline for completion
- Welcomes the presentations of thematic sections of the assessment by the authors
- Requests the secretariat to forward the summary for policymakers to the Committee on Environmental Policy once all comments are incorporated
- Requests an update on the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference related to the assessment at its next session

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 2



Agenda item 6: Sharing and integration of economic, social and environmental data with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Working Group:

- Takes note of information provided on upcoming regional events and initiatives promoted in 2022 by international and regional organizations that are related to the activities of the Working Group and invites the members of the Working Group to participate and contribute as appropriate and relevant.
- Invites representatives of regional and international organizations to provide regular updates to the Working Group on upcoming events and initiatives of relevance including on circular economy and digitalization to complement environmental monitoring.
- Takes note of the suggestions on topics for the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group and invites further suggestions in writing within two weeks

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 2



Agenda item 7: Progress in environmental monitoring and assessment, including institutional and regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

The Working Group:

- Welcomes the presentations by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czechia, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on environmental monitoring and assessment and appreciates the progress made by them.

Summary of decisions and recommendations – Day 2



Agenda item 8: Other business

Agenda item 9: Closure of the hybrid meeting

- The Working Group welcomed a summary of conclusions and decisions and approved the decisions made *ad referendum* during the hybrid meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on 11-12 April 2022.