

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization: Ministry of Environment and Water, Republic of Bulgaria**
2. **Title of the action:** Achieving resource efficiency by applying waste management hierarchy, preventing its formation, promoting its reuse and utilization through recycling, reducing landfilling and limiting its harmful impact on environment and human health (Focus areas: 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being).
3. **Description of the action:**
 - Financing of investment measures to ensure the necessary infrastructure for treating all amounts of domestic waste generated in the country. Completion of the regional landfills for household waste.
 - Urgent finalization of the reclamation process of the closed municipal landfills that do not meet the regulatory requirements.
 - Promotion of modern technologies for separate collection, composting/anaerobic degradation of biodegradable waste, recycling and environmentally friendly disposal. Completing the infrastructure for recycling and waste recovery.
 - Development and adoption of legislative acts and regulations.
 - Preparation of a Strategy and action plan for the transition to a circular economy of the Republic of Bulgaria, for the period 2022-2027.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** the end of 2022.
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱ:** Legal, regulatory and policy instruments.
6. **Economic sectorsⁱⁱⁱ:** sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** Strategic goals of the national policy for environmental protection for 2022.
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Creating a strategic framework for waste management and circular economy. Limiting the harmful impact of waste on the environment and human health.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** Recommendation 1.2 (c) Harmonizing the national and local waste management legislation.
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Implementation of the reclamation activities of landfills for solid domestic waste. Implementation of contracts under the OPE 2014-2020 procedures. Evaluation of submitted project proposals and conclusion of contracts, if applicable. Implementation of the 4 contracts concluded under open call 2 "Circular economy and resource efficiency" under the 2014-2021 FM of the EEA programme EPCC with a value

of the grant provided BGN 2.7 million. Implementation of the measures of the National Waste Management Plan 2021-2028 for promotion of modern technologies for separate collection, composting/anaerobic degradation of biodegradable waste, recycling and environmentally friendly disposal and completing the infrastructure for recycling and waste recovery. Adopted Ordinance on the conditions and requirements that must be met by waste storage or treatment sites, for the deployment of waste treatment facilities and for the transportation of industrial and hazardous waste. Adopted Council of Ministers' Decree for amending and supplementing normative acts in the field of waste. Development and adoption of an Instruction for interaction between the Ministry of the Environment and Water and the Ministry of the Interior to increase the effectiveness of control under Regulation 1013/2006 on shipments of waste. Drafting and adoption of a new Waste Inspection Plan (on the basis of Article 50, Paragraph 2a of Regulation (EU) No. 660/2014 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 on shipments of waste). Adopted strategic document.

12. **Partners:** Ministry of Economy and Industry, Ministry of Innovation and Growth, business community, NGOs, local authorities.
13. **Contact points:** Coordination of EU Affairs and International Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Water, Republic of Bulgaria, tel.: +359 2 940 6132; +359 2 940 6766.

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** (YES / NO)
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure^{iv}” does the action contribute:*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** (YES / NO)

ⁱ Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

ⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

ⁱⁱⁱ In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

^{iv} The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>