

# Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Twenty-fifth session, Geneva and online, 2-3 May 2023

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the report of the twenty-fourth session

**Key outcomes of the 24th session of the Working Group and status of implementation of decisions and recommendations**



**UNECE**



# Objectives of the 24th session



- To discuss and adopt the revised annual timetable of activities for 2023
- To review the key messages and recommendations on SEIS establishment to be forwarded to ministers at the Ninth EfE Ministerial Conference
- To discuss upcoming SEIS reviews on specific topics
- To discuss the final draft of the 7th pan-European environmental assessment and preparations for the Ninth EfE Ministerial Conference
- To inform the Working Group about international projects and initiatives of relevance
- To develop an inclusive platform to discuss integration of economic, social and environmental data
- To consult on streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting
- To share good practices and discuss progress in environmental monitoring and assessment at national level



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## II. Adoption of the agenda

- The Working Group adopted the agenda (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2022/1).

## III. Adoption of the report of the twenty-third session

- The Working Group adopted the report of the twenty-third session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/2).



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## IV. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference [1]

The Working Group:

- Took note of the decisions made by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-seventh session – **Done**
- Requested the secretariat to continue to brief the CEP on the activities on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting – **Done**
- Adopted the timetable of activities for 2023 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2022/3)
- Expressed appreciation to those countries and organizations currently supporting financially the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme – Austria, the European Union and Switzerland
- Also expressed appreciation to those countries that had supported the preparation of the pan-European environmental assessment to date – Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## IV. Implementing the mandate and terms of reference [2]

The Working Group:

- Requested 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 – **Done**
- Welcomed the draft elements presented for the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference for the Working Group for mid-2023 until mid-2028 – **see meeting agenda**
- Requested 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 – **see meeting agenda**



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## V. Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment [1/2]

The Working Group:

- Welcomed the key messages and recommendations from the final review report on the establishment of SEIS (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2021/6) and the draft pan-European environmental assessment
- Decided to provide additional comments on the proposed additional key messages and recommendations within two weeks and, if comments were provided, requested the secretariat to circulate a revised version for approval by a silence procedure over a further period of two weeks – **Done**
- Requested the secretariat to inform the CEP of the outcomes of the 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 – **Done**
- Suggested reviewing the environmental theme “air” in 2023, by using the SEIS assessment framework and possibly the online reporting tool, while employing the revised ECE environmental indicators – **see meeting agenda**



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## V. Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment [2/2]

### The Working Group:

- Requested 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 European Union-funded programme “EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data” – **Done, see meeting agenda**
- Welcomed 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 – **Done**
- Welcomed the offer of Austria to take the lead in organizing the side event in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, ECE and UNEP – **Done**
- Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy of the outcomes of the agenda item – **Done**



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## VI. Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

The Working Group:

- Welcomed the full draft of the seventh pan-European environmental assessment and its summary for policymakers
- Took note of the final steps needed and the timeline for completion
- Welcomed the presentations of thematic sections of the assessment by the authors
- Requested the secretariat to forward the summary for policymakers to the Committee on Environmental Policy once all comments had been incorporated – **Done**
- Requested an update on the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference related to the assessment at its next session – **see meeting agenda**





# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## VII. Sharing and integration of economic, social and environmental data with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Working Group :

- Took note of information provided on upcoming regional events and initiatives promoted in 2022 by international and regional organizations that were related to the activities of the Working Group and invited the members of the Working Group to participate and contribute as appropriate and relevant
- Invited 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 – [see meeting agenda](#)
- Took note of the suggestions on topics for the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group and invited further suggestions in writing within two weeks, that was to say, by 26 April 2022 – [Done](#)



# Recommendations and Decisions taken and their status of implementation



## VIII. Progress in environmental monitoring and assessment, including institutional and regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

- The Working Group welcomed the presentations by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czechia, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on environmental monitoring and assessment and expressed appreciation for the progress made by them.

## IX. Other business and closure of the 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 and 12 April 2022 – Done

Questions & Comments?

Thank you!



# Proposed decision



## Proposed decision:

### The Working Group:

Adopts the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment as set out in document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2022/2.