

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

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

Agenda Item 4: Implementing the mandate and terms of reference

Summary of decisions from the special session of CEP on 3-4 October 2022 in Nicosia and relevant outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Ministerial Conference



CEP Summary of decisions



CEP - special session (Nicosia, 3-4 Oct. 2022)

Committee on Environmental Policy:

- Approved extension of the current mandate & ToR of the Working Group (and the Joint Task Force) until end of 2023.
- Agreed that a new draft mandate & ToR would be presented to Committee at its 28th session (Geneva, 1–3 November 2023).

→ The UNECE Executive Committee subsequently approved extension of the mandate and terms of reference in January 2023

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference





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- **Ninth Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference took place on 5–7 October 2022 in Nicosia**, and was preceded by Special Session of Committee on Environmental Policy (3–4 October 2022)
- **Attended by about 1000 participants, with 70 countries represented at ministerial level**
- Information and documents available at <https://unece.org/nicosia-conference> and <https://nicosiaefe.gov.cy/>



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- With relevance for the Working Group in particular:
 - Establishment of Shared Environmental Information System
 - Launch of 7th Pan-European Environmental Assessment
 - Side event on Sustainable Monitoring Infrastructure and continuous innovation in implementing a Shared Environmental Information System
- Resulted in substantive coverage of environmental monitoring and assessment in plenary and in the Nicosia Declaration
 - https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_NICOSIA.CONF_2022_L.1_E.pdf



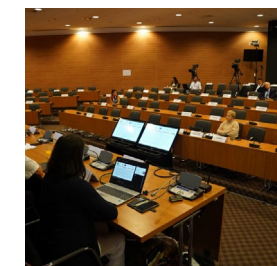
Shared Environmental Information System



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- Item 2 of Conference agenda was “From Dobris to Nicosia: 30 years of environmental cooperation in the pan-European region”
- Sub-item “Establishment of a pan-European Shared Environmental Information System”
- Acting Director of UNEP Europe moderated two interventions
 - Chair of UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment – presented main achievements in establishing SEIS
 - Head of Coordination, Networks and Strategy Programme of European Environment Agency – looked at future directions, building upon the establishment of SEIS



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Shared Environmental Information System – Nicosia Declaration



- We commend the general **establishment of SEIS** across the region to support a regular process of environmental assessment.
- We invite countries to **continue their efforts** to implement all pillars of SEIS – content, infrastructure and cooperation – and to address any remaining gaps.
- We recommend that countries make **environmental information publicly available**, findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable, and encourage collection of local and indigenous knowledge, citizen science and crowdsourced data.
- We encourage countries, when developing **digitalization of environmental information systems** relying on open data, big data and state-of-the-art digital technologies, to improve data availability, transparency and public involvement in decision-making.



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Pan-European Environmental Assessment



- Item 3 of Conference agenda was “Environment in the pan-European region: visions of 2030 and beyond”
- Sub-item “Transforming Planet: Pan-European Environmental Assessment: key messages to guide environmental action until 2030 and beyond”
- Chair of UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy provided an overview of the findings and moderated a discussion on the state of the environment in the pan-European region
 - Minister for the Environment of the Netherlands (on waste)
 - Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus (on marine pollution)
 - Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (on decarbonization)
 - Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection of Uzbekistan (on biodiversity)



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Pan-European Environmental Assessment – Nicosia Declaration



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- We acknowledge the importance of regular, indicator-based environmental assessments, and confirm our commitment to keeping the pan-European region under regular review in support of sustainable development and the transition to a circular, green and sustainable economy. We take note of the key findings of the seventh pan-European assessment, produced by UNECE and UNEP, and the urgent need in particular to: ...
 - Establish a resource-oriented, pan-European e-waste management partnership, and further **broaden access to reliable, detailed information on chemicals and waste** in order to achieve their sound management
 - Develop and implement appropriate and common pan-European methods and systems for monitoring and information management, **employ the revised UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators**, and adopt indicators to cover important emerging policymaking themes, also with a view to improving the availability of quality data for the indicators of the SDGs.
 - Select key impact **tourism indicators** to be included in UNECE statistical databases.

Pan-European Environmental Assessment – Nicosia Declaration



- We recognize the need for a **common understanding of sustainable and safe infrastructure and of how to quantify progress across countries**, together with the need to strengthen transboundary cooperation to address technological and environmental risks and prevent adverse impacts.
- We recognize the crucial importance of having access to **diverse information sources** and reliable, up-to-date, quality data and statistics, namely by using modern tools and techniques, for facing both current and emerging needs and challenges.
- We reaffirm our commitment to **facilitating partnerships** and mutual support among national statistical offices and related agencies, for example, environmental agencies, to produce data and statistics for monitoring progress in environmental protection.
- ... we remain committed to ensuring **adequate monitoring of**, and public access to relevant information on, **air pollution**, in particular ground-level monitoring.



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Questions & Comments ?

Thank you!



Proposed Decision:

The Working Group:

- Takes note of the decisions made by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its special session
- Takes note of the outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, confirms its commitment to support the implementation of the outcomes subject to the availability of resources and decides to integrate the outcomes into its work
- Requests the secretariat to continue to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the activities on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting
- **xxx**