



Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 9-10 November 2020

Committee on Environmental Policy

Agenda Item 5: Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment



Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

ENVIRONMENT



22nd session, 27 October 2020

- Over 50 participants online, 1 in meeting room
- Session report being drafted – decisions in Information paper no. 12
- Two main procedural topics:
 - Annual timetable of activities 2021
 - Mandate and terms of reference (focusing on these two items)



Annual timetable of activities for 2021

- Working Group conscious of the expected postponement of 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to 2022, but that no decision had been taken.
- Therefore:
 - Adopted the timetable of activities for 2021, while recognizing that it might need to be adjusted in the light of a possible change to the timing of the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
 - Requested secretariat to prepare an informal document (*information paper no. 7*) for the next session of the Committee on Environmental Policy setting out the necessary changes to the annual timetable of activities 2021 if the next ministerial conference is rescheduled to 2022



Annual timetable of activities for 2021

- The information paper foresees changes to the annual timetable for 2021 as follows:
 - The draft final report on establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System will be presented to the Committee in November (not May) 2021, together with an annual timetable of activities for 2022
 - Only a draft of the pan-European environmental assessment will be prepared in 2021
 - A document setting out the extension of the current terms of reference of the Working Group until mid-2023 will be prepared, *as explained shortly*

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Mandate and terms of reference

- Working Group's mandate and terms of reference is currently for 2016-2021
- Working Group is a subsidiary body of the Committee on Environmental Policy
- Substantive work responds to needs expressed by Ministers in Environment for Europe Conferences, with next Conference in 2022?
- The Working Group requested the secretariat to inform the Committee of the Working Group's wish to extend its current mandate and terms of reference until at least 2022, if the next ministerial conference is rescheduled to 2022
- The Working Group also requested the secretariat to prepare a document setting out the extension of the current mandate and terms of reference and to present it at the next session of the Working Group



Planned activities and outputs

Continue consultation between UNECE member States, partners & other institutions & networks, incl. MEAs, IFIs, private sector & provide an inclusive platform for countries	Engage in capacity-development assistance on environmental monitoring and assessment & environmental knowledge
Cooperate with JTF & other relevant UNECE bodies incl. Housing & Land Management, Population, Sustainable Energy & Transport, to ensure that activities are synergetic & streamlined	Detailing regional and national capacity gaps, in collaboration with Joint Task Force (gaps in monitoring, data availability for indicator production)
Engage with other communities & networks for enhanced integration of socio-economic & environmental data & utilization in decision-making & presentation of environmental	Supporting countries in development & implementation of regional & national indicator frameworks
	Engaging & liaising with other knowledge-sharing actors working on capacity development in related areas

