

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Special session

Nicosia, 3–4 October 2022

Summary of the outcomes of the special session and the decisions taken

(unedited; as approved by the Committee on 4 October 2022)

The Committee on Environmental Policy:

- (a) Adopts the agenda of its special session (ECE/CEP/S/2022/5).
- (b) Decides to transmit the draft Ministerial Declaration, as amended during the session (ECE/CEP/S/2022/7/Rev.1), to the Nicosia Conference for adoption.
- (c) Adopts the recommendations contained in the Second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Armenia (Information paper No. 15).
- (d) Adopts the recommendations contained in the Third EPR of Azerbaijan (Information paper No. 16).
- (e) Agrees to postpone the adoption of recommendations of the Third EPR of Kyrgyzstan to its next session, while taking note of the commitment of Kyrgyzstan to provide to the UNECE secretariat comments to the draft EPR recommendations (Information paper No. 17), underpinned by complete and accurate information, at the latest by the end of 2022.
- (f) Invites the UNECE secretariat to assess the comments received from Kyrgyzstan and proceed with the necessary actions to finalise the recommendations of the country's EPR for consideration by the Expert Group on EPRs, as needed, and the Committee. The actions will be subject to the availability of financial resources and the continued commitment of Kyrgyzstan, including participation in person in the meeting of the Expert Group on EPRs.
- (g) Expresses sincere appreciation for the work of the ECE Expert Group on EPRs, adopts the mandate and terms of reference of the Expert Group on EPRs for 2023–2026 (ECE/CEP/S/2022/9, annex), and requests the ECE secretariat to submit it to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.
- (h) Welcomes the information provided on activities of the EPR Programme and expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for the excellent work in support of the Programme.
- (i) Welcomes the start of the EPR of Mauritania.
- (j) Welcomes the next EPRs to be conducted: the fourth EPRs of Tajikistan, Montenegro, and the Republic of Moldova.
- (k) Takes note of activities to prepare for the Fourth Cycle of EPRs under the ECE EPR Programme.
- (l) Invites the Expert Group on EPRs to prepare additional guidance on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs for the consideration of CEP at its 28th session in November 2023.
- (m) Takes note of the information provided by the secretariat on resource mobilization for the ECE EPR Programme in 2021–2022 and, in particular, thanks:
 - i. Austria, Germany and Switzerland for their financial support;
 - ii. France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Portugal for providing expertise;
 - iii. UNEP for providing expertise;

- iv. United Nations Country Teams and UNDP for substantive and logistical support;
- v. Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Switzerland and UNEP for having delegated their experts to serve in and support the Expert Group on EPRs.
- (n) Invite members of the Committee to nominate their representatives to the Expert Group on EPRs.
- (o) Encourages delegations to provide in-kind (expert) and financial support to the ECE EPR Programme.
- (p) Appreciates the close cooperation of the ECE Environment, Statistical and Sustainable Energy and Sustainable Transport Divisions, and Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, and United Nations Country Teams, with the EPR Programme.
- (q) Decides to extend mandates and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators until end-2023 to allow the Working Group and the Joint Task Force to present new draft mandates and terms of reference after the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to the Committee and, in the case of the Joint Task Force, the Conference of European Statisticians, and requests the secretariat to submit these decisions on extension to the ECE Executive Committee for approval.
- (r) Takes note of the proposal made to convert the Joint Task Force into a standing body and decides to have in-depth discussion based on detailed information provided by the secretariat at the next regular session of the Committee in November 2023.
- (s) Adopts the draft programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2023 (ECE/CEP/S/2022/10) and recommends that it be approved by the Executive Committee.
- (t) Takes note of the “Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for 2024” as contained in information paper No. 18.
- (u) Agrees to hold its next regular session in Geneva, to be held on 1-3 November 2023.
- (v) Expresses gratitude to the Government of Cyprus for its hospitality and hosting the Committee’s special session in Nicosia.
- (w) Requests the Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the Committee’s decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the Committee’s work at its next regular session.
- (x) Expresses gratitude for the work of the interpreters and the technical team in servicing the current meeting.
- (y) Expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for servicing the work of the meeting.
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