

Hungarian position on the future of the Environment for Europe process

a) The format, focus and priorities of the process and Ministerial Conferences and f) assessing ways and means to promote more effectively the UNECE region-wide dimension of environmental cooperation

Hungary is of the view that the EfE process is an important framework for the cooperation with the non-EU countries in the Pan-European region.

Regarding the future focus of the conferences it could be considered to integrate the EfE process into the broader context and articulate the global emerging issues in the agenda of the conferences. In particular global issues with strong regional relevance and/or European responsibility could be included in the agenda (such as climate change, desertification, heavy metals). It is likely that there will be issues having special importance for the countries in the Pan-European region.

The political interest for the process should be maintained or rather elevated. The strengthening of the interlinkages with the other dimensions of sustainable development should be considered. A practical approach could be the involvement and personal participation of ministers from interrelated sectors attracted by well targeted themes for discussion.

b) Evaluating the performance and impact of the process

We consider that EfE process is a useful forum where countries of the Pan-European region regardless of the differences of their economic situation, level of development, political set-up or environmental awareness can participate on equal footing.

We think that the financial burdens of the preparations of the future ministerial conferences should be reduced. Although the different actors of the process would supposedly strive to introduce their activities and achievements at such conferences, the financial implications could be diminished with more focused agendas.

A crucial point is to achieve that the process and the ministerial conferences lead to concrete actions and/or commitments at country and regional level furthermore contribute to the global considerations.