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# ADVANCING IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



## Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

*Astana (Kazakhstan), September / October 2011*

Presentation by

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## **“Environment for Europe” process**

- a unique partnership of UNECE member States, organizations of the UN system represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations, RECs, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders
- a high-level platform to address environmental priorities and promote broad horizontal cooperation, and a regional pillar of sustainable development
- focused on helping countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to raise their environmental standards towards a common regional standard
- UNECE serves as secretariat to the process

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## **“Environment for Europe” process reform**

- **strengthen the effectiveness of the process and ensure that it remains appropriate for, and fully aligned with, the changing needs of the UNECE region, the evolving political and economic landscape and the environmental priorities of the region**
- **continue to serve as a mechanism:**
  - ❖ **to improve the environment throughout the region**
  - ❖ **to enhance the implementation of national environmental policies**
  - ❖ **to support convergence of environmental policies and approaches and the prioritization of environmental objectives**
  - ❖ **to encourage participation of civil society and of private sector**
  - ❖ **to promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation**

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## Astana Ministerial Conference

➤ **two main themes:**

❖ **sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems**

❖ **greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development**

➤ **commit to establishing a pan-European shared environmental information system**

➤ **launch “Environment for Europe” Public Private Partnerships**

➤ **provide opportunity for networking, raising awareness and joining efforts in addressing environmental priorities**

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## Astana Ministerial Conference

- **Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is the convening body for the preparatory process**
- **Conference agenda prepared by CEP Extended Bureau (Geneva, 16-17 Mar 2010) & CEP 17<sup>th</sup> session (Geneva, 2-5 Nov 2010)**
- **possible issues to be addressed within 'greening the economy' theme:**
  - the reduction of carbon emissions, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, the reconfiguration of financing and infrastructure to better accommodate environmental considerations, ...**

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## **“Environment for Europe” process**

**thank you!**

**for more information visit:**

**<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/16thsession.html>**

**<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/welcome.html>**