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Committee on Environmental Policy

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The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana

Conference main outcomes: main findings of the review

Information paper No. 13/Rev.2

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Compilation of comments included in the responses to the survey on the promotion of the “Environment for Europe” process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its eighteenth session in April 2012 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) invited the secretariat to organize consultations (in the form of a survey) with ECE member States to collect information on how countries were promoting the objectives and priorities of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process and strengthening implementation of the outcomes of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011), including through national policies and relevant partnerships (ECE/CEP/2012/2, para. 25 (m)). The results of the survey are presented in an official document submitted to CEP (ECE/CEP/2013/21^a).

The survey was developed by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau. Responses were received from representatives of 29 Government organizations and 10 other stakeholders during the period of 3 June–29 July 2013. One more Government sent the response in August 2013. The present document is a compilation of all 938 comments (795 by the 30 Government respondents, and 143 by the 10 non-governmental respondents) that were made by the respondents while answering the survey questions. The comment from UNEP is included separately at the end of the document, as it came in the form of a letter.

All comments are included in the way they were sent by the respondents, i.e. in the original language, without editing, and without correcting typos.

Due to the exceptional length of the document, for the ease of use in electronic format the table of contents with internal links is included below. Comments on the particular questions can be accessed directly from the table of contents by clicking “Ctrl+Click” keys with the cursor over the respective item (in the Microsoft Word format).

^a <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2013/ece/cep/ece.cep.2013.21.e.pdf>

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COMMENTS

To the questionnaire on the promotion of the “Environment for Europe” process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences

1. Contact information

Please indicate the name, title, organization and country, as well as the contact data of the person who filled in the survey

First name:	...
Last name:	...
Title:	...
Organization:	...
Country:	...
Address:	...
Telephone:	...
E-mail:	...
Website:	...
Date:	...

2. Progress in promoting the objectives of the “Environment for Europe” process

The EfE process continues to serve as a mechanism to:

2.1. Improve the environment throughout the region, contributing to sustainable development which may in turn contribute to poverty eradication, to improving quality of life and to a safer world

AUSTRIA:

The questions under this heading are difficult to answer. The process was and is of particular importance for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, because it covers the whole European region and provides possibilities for enhancing environmental issues which are not dealt with in other fora. For EU countries and to some extent also for South-East Europe there are a variety of other fora or instruments which support environmental policies and implementation.

AZERBAIJAN:

The success of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of social, economic and environmental policy maintained macroeconomic stability, ensuring the continuity of economic growth, increasing incomes and well-being of the population has been significantly improved.

In the direction of improving the well-being of the population in order to continue the positive trends of the 2008-2015 in the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development.

This program identified the following key strategic objectives.

- Macroeconomic stability and sustainable economic growth through the development of non-oil sector;
- expanding access to income, to achieve a significant reduction in the number of poor people;
- developing an effective social security system of the elderly population, low-income families and reduce the risk of socially vulnerable groups;
- activities aimed at improving the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons to continue in a systematic way;
- improving the quality of basic services in education and health, equal opportunities;
- the development of social infrastructure, improve the system of public utilities;
- improve the environmental situation, ensuring sustainable management of the environment;
- promoting gender equality;
- the continuation of institutional reforms and improving good governance
- to continue to improve the people's welfare achievements, to further reduce poverty, as well as the UN's "Millennium Development Goals" from the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the consideration of the country is provided.

- State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the region were carried out in order to improve the environment, and adoption of legislative acts

Public education and awareness in the field of environmental protection is one of the priorities.

BULGARIA:

The EfE process continues to be a strong impetus to improving the environment throughout the pan-European region and thus contributing to achieving sustainable development and eradication of poverty, especially with its focus on supporting the countries of eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to raise environmental standards and comply with international commitments.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

While we agree that the process has contributed to the improvement of the environment in the region, it's important to bear in mind the ever increasing activity of the EU, the main partner of the UNECE, in the environmental area. The EfE process, once an important and unique tool for bringing the high-level representatives of the various UNECE subregions together, has to adapt to new circumstances – especially in putting emphasis of making use of the widely recognised partnerships built in the 20-year history of the process. The 2009 reform was an important step towards this goal – what is now urgent is to solve the disproportion between the unique nature of activities carried out under its frame and the diminishing political impact of the ministerial conferences.

Also, the question of how much added value the EfE brings to the EU Member States, which have largely adopted all necessary instruments to implement the main EfE provisions and processes, needs to be tackled. Amidst numerous environmental processes and the current difficult economic situation in many countries, the EfE process has to defend its position and proved its worth – new innovative ways how to achieve this are needed to be identified.

GERMANY:

The EfE process in our view has given and still does give relevant impetus to strengthening environmental policy and regional cooperation. However, to make full use of the potential of the process, activities should in the future have an even stronger focus on concrete outcomes.

GREECE:

The EfE Process has the potential to contribute to poverty eradication and to have a positive impact on the quality of life in the UNECE region, through environmental integration in sectoral policies aiming at the promotion of common sustainable development goals and targets.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Процесс «Окружающая среда для Европы» предоставляет уникальную политическую платформу на высоком уровне для участия правительств, межправительственных и

неправительственных организаций, частного сектора и других заинтересованных сторон в обсуждении, решении и объединении усилий для решения приоритетных экологических вопросов, способствует осуществлению национальных стратегий в области охраны окружающей среды, поощрению участия гражданского общества в принятии экологически значимых решений и содействует межсекторальному экологическому сотрудничеству.

NETHERLANDS:

We recognize that over the past 20 years many steps have been taken in improving the environmental quality in the UNECE region. Several multilateral environmental agreements have emerged and have been implemented; environment related programmes have been executed; capacity has been built with policy makers, NGOs as well as enforcement agents; and awareness has been raised with the general public in many countries that they can hold their governments and private sector companies accountable for the quality of the environment in which they live. Moreover, it has been proved that contributing to a cleaner environment by introducing innovative, green technology, is a good approach to stimulate a greening economy, which in turn creates more, higher skilled jobs with safer working conditions.

However, we believe that the Environment for Europe process in its current form is no longer the structure that delivers most added value. In our view the Multilateral Environmental Agreements are now in a phase where they should be implemented and monitored through their own review-processes. A ministerial process with regular meetings is not necessary to achieve the goals of these MEAs.

Moreover, as 'technical' protection of the environment is more or less covered under the MEAs and knowledge transfer is underway, the future challenges may lie more in social and economic challenges like green economy, flows of raw materials, as well as food and energy security and their relation to distribution issues, trade and access. EfE may not be the most logic place to cover these future topics.

POLAND:

The EfE process played an important role in the area of environmental improvement in countries of the UNECE. The process is recognized as a unique Pan-European forum for tackling the environmental challenges and promoting broad horizontal environmental cooperation, as a pillar of sustainable development in the region. The EfE process is a voluntary platform of countries, international organisations, financial institutions, private sector and civil society for pan-European discussions on sustainable development policy that provides political guidance for improved environmental protection. The process made further progress on several features regarding water and green economy but also took decisive steps towards the establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment and the development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region. SEIS is a flagship project of the Eastern Partnership, the regional component of the European Neighbourhood policy, with the top level support.

Inadequate support for domestic actions, mainly due to reliable, stable and adequate financial resources.

During the 7th Ministerial Conference (Astana, September, 2011) Poland held the Presidency of the European Union. Poland coordinated the EU and its Member States position and was

responsible for organizing meetings with the civil society representatives. As a response to the call from the UNECE Secretariat to support the preparatory process for the Conference, Poland decided to contribute 25.000 USD to the EfE Trust Fund to support participation of representatives from countries with economies in transition.

ROMANIA:

Romania believes that a major objective of sustainable development is the transition to a green economy, encouraging investments in different economic sectors that will use the natural capital and ecosystems in an efficient sustainable manner. Reducing existing regional disparities, with emphasis on stimulating balanced development and revitalization of disadvantaged areas (developmental delay), preventing new imbalances is one of the main objectives of our country

SLOVAKIA:

The CEE region is a successful example of the EfE process in practice. Undoubtedly, due to the Environment Action Program under the EfE process implemented in Slovakia gradually through 3 National Environmental Action Plans, Slovakia managed in a decisive manner to considerably improve its environment in all relevant fields. Moreover, meeting the commitments set under particular UNECE conventions led to reaching higher European standards.

SWITZERLAND:

The EfE process with all its related activities is an important mechanism for improving the environment in the UNECE region, especially in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The EfE process seems to have its greatest value in contributing to Sustainable Development in particular parts of the region, specifically in the EECCA region. This is as the EfE process was originally conceived and continues today. If it continues to offer value for these regions it may be justified in continuing but it does not and its purpose is not to make a contribution “throughout” the region.

BIOTICA:

Weak implementation of the decisions adopted by EfE Conferences – better in European Union and worse in EECCA – was matter of discussions in front of the Belgrade Conference (2007). “Prioritised EfE policy” became the only response during preparations and the Astana Conference; that is reflected, among other, by strong official opposition regarding science-based suggestions to draft documents (e.g. water protection depends strongly on measures regulating the surface run-off in catchment area however relevant ECO-Forum suggestions had been refused during drafting in WGSO and further). There are no marks that “prioritisation” has led to better implementation of the EfE decisions. At the same time mechanisms to monitor

the EfE decisions are absent.

CAREC:

Being established within the EfE process as the institutional mechanism for regional cooperation in Central Asia, CAREC supports and contributes the EfE process through numerous activities such as the 1) development of the Shared Environmental Information System in CA; 2) the application of IWRM principles in small transboundary watersheds; 3) the promotion of education for sustainable development in CA, and implementing: 4) the assessing of assessments processes on air, wastes, biodiversity and climate change in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; 5) a series of low carbon development programmes in CA; and 7) raising public awareness of sustainable development issues throughout the region.

Besides, CAREC contributes towards the development of the Green Bridge Initiative of the Kazakh Government, and the Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development.

2.2. Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies

AUSTRIA:

The questions under this heading are difficult to answer. The process was and is of particular importance for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, because it covers the whole European region and provides possibilities for enhancing environmental issues which are not dealt with in other fora. For EU countries and to some extent also for South-East Europe there are a variety of other fora or instruments which support environmental policies and implementation.

BULGARIA:

The EfE process, especially through the MEAs, EPR programme, etc. continues to provide the framework for the development and implementation of national environmental policies.

GREECE:

The EfE Process should continue to provide a high-level platform for member-states and stakeholders to discuss and initiate joint efforts in addressing common environmental challenges across the 56 countries of the UNECE region, and to contribute to the improvement of environmental standards at national and regional level.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Процесс «Окружающая среда для Европы» способствует поддержке процесса сближения политики и подходов в области окружающей среды, осуществлению более совершенных национальных стратегий в области охраны окружающей среды.

NETHERLANDS:

It must be noted that there exists a rather strong distinction within the ECE region: The EU has integrated all obligations stemming from MEAs into its environmental policies and directives. This system guarantees implementation by the EU memberstates, for if a breach of implementation is noticed, the memberstate can be held in non-compliance. To parties of MEAs belonging to the EU, EfE probably will not lead to further strengthening national environmental policies.

Other countries however that do not belong to the EU may very well benefit from outcome documents, policy reviews, joint monitoring systems, capacity building activities and MoP decisions of the MEAs to convince their national parties that strengthening environmental policy is still important and much needed. We don't believe this needs a regular ministerial process.

POLAND:

The Seventh Ministerial Conference was the first one to be organized on the basis of the agreed reform of the EfE process from 2009. The main reason of the reform of the EfE process was to ensure that the process remains relevant and valuable, and to strengthen its effectiveness as a

mechanism for improving environmental quality and the lives of people across the region. As was mentioned during a few last meetings, particularly for the EECCA region, the EfE process, including the ministerial level of the EfE conferences, had the added value due to the progress achieved thanks to the projects implemented and actions on the environment at national level. Environmental Performance Review Programme, and the set-up of pan-European assessment reports on the state of the environment, is the one of good task for strengthened national environmental policies. Also the Regional Environmental Centers (RECs) network can play an important role in the achievement of the overall EfE process objectives and priorities, which could be implemented into national environmental policies. Limited impact on enhancing national implementation of policies due to lack of financial support.

ROMANIA:

Regarding the integration of the environmental protection policy in other sectoral policies and strategies, Romania uses an inter-ministerial Committee chaired by the minister of the environment that brings together the other ministries and public authorities and relevant stakeholders. The Committee periodically examines and proposes necessary measures in order to ensure environmental protection, and implicitly sustainable development, in Romania.

SWITZERLAND:

Especially through the impact of the EPRs and the work of the EAP TF.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

It may in some countries, particularly in the EECCA region, but otherwise it does not.

BIOTICA:

There are no visible proves that EfE influences the implementation of national environmental policies at the national level namely, and / or strengthens these during the last 5-7 years. Step of such influence may be found in policies of some donors that concentrate their support on the water-related issues while other donors diminish environment-related programs. The most visible attempts to strengthen the national environmental policies relate to activities of the international organisations (e.g. OECD), programs (e.g. UNEP) and platforms (IPBES, IPCC) devoted to “green economy”, climate change, etc

CAREC:

The EfE encouraged CA states to strengthen their national environmental policies and develop strategies for sustainable development.

CAREC supports this process through numerous programmes and projects.

ECO ACCORD:

It is relevant for most EECCA countries. However, potential of the process is not properly used as process doesn't involve Ministries of Economic Development.

2.3. Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals and the prioritization of environmental objectives

AUSTRIA:

The questions under this heading are difficult to answer. The process was and is of particular importance for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, because it covers the whole European region and provides possibilities for enhancing environmental issues which are not dealt with in other fora. For EU countries and to some extent also for South-East Europe there are a variety of other fora or instruments which support environmental policies and implementation.

BULGARIA:

The EfE continues to serve as a unique platform integrating different environmental policies and approaches to long existing and emerging policy issues.

GERMANY:

In particular, MEAs are contributing to convergence of environmental policies. In addition, numerous activities targeting an exchange of experience most likely have supported convergence of environmental policies and approaches, as well.

GREECE:

Through several initiatives, like the elaboration of environmental assessment reports, the Environmental Performance Reviews Programme, the adoption of regional strategies, and the adoption of regional multilateral environmental agreements, the EfE process aims at the identification of environmental issues of common concern in the UNECE region, the prioritisation of environmental objectives, and the harmonisation of environmental policies to address common challenges towards sustainable development. The EfE process should continue to pursue this objective and the convergence of environmental policies and goals in the region, while respecting the heterogeneity of its member states in terms of the levels of economic development, environmental challenges and institutional frameworks.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Основной актуальной экологической проблемой, представляющей общий интерес для региона Европы и Центральной Азии является проблема изменения климата. Регион сталкивается с серьезной угрозой, вызванной изменением климата, причем ряд наиболее серьезных опасностей уже является очевидным. Полезным вкладом в решение этой сложной проблемы при разработке и осуществлении мер адаптации на региональном, субрегиональном и национальном уровнях является обмен опытом с целью извлечь уроки из того, как другие страны решают проблему адаптации к изменению климата.

Кроме того, экологический мониторинг и оценка являются предпосылкой для подготовки актуальных и информативных материалов для тех, кто занимается разработкой политики и принимает решения. Совместная экологическая

информационная система (основанная на имеющихся ресурсах и базах данных экологической информации), созданная при активном участии большинства стран региона стала большим вкладом в решении проблемы отсутствия надежной, доступной и сопоставимой экологической информации по всему общеевропейскому региону.

NETHERLANDS:

Environmental challenges most often are not place-based and don't take geographical borders into account. The solution of environmental pollution, climate change effects etc can only be achieved in international cooperation. Setting international standards and rules for producing and using goods and substances and disposing of waste and seeing on the compliance with these standards and rules helps to create an international level playing field in which all countries have a fair chance of economic development which at the same time protects its citizens from undesired environmental and social effects.

As mentioned before, a number of MEAs have been developed to protect the environment and citizens. Lack of implementation is one big problem; lack of ratification is another one. Despite all kinds of capacity building and awareness raising activities in the last twenty years, still many protocols have not been ratified or implemented by many countries. The previous ministerial meetings of EfE have not contributed to more active approaches by these governments, so in this field, there is no added value of organising ministerial EfE meetings.

POLAND:

Under the EfE process a number of significant and important decisions were undertaken. Among which the most important are as follow: establishment of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe Task Force (EAP TF) and the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), the creation of new Regional Environmental Centers (RECs) for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, the introduction of the Environmental Performance Review Programme, and the set-up of pan-European assessment reports on the state of the environment, as well as creation of SEIS.

ROMANIA:

Regional cooperation is key in addressing issues of a transboundary nature, exchanging information and disseminating good practices and lessons learned. The work we have invested in identifying and developing relevant activities and projects within UNECE proves the great importance we place on cooperation in our region

SLOVAKIA:

Sharing the best practices in designing and implementing the policies among countries is a good way to learn how to achieve targets or avoid mistakes.

SWITZERLAND:

Especially through the choices of the EfE Conference themes, the HL discussions and commitments and the follow up activities (MEAs, EPRs, EAP TF, REC, etc.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

It can be helpful but often is less respectful of the diversity of approaches than the US would prefer

CAREC:

CAREC's mandate focusses in particular on the support of regional activities and thus on the convergence of environmental policies and methods throughout Central Asia. Examples of such activities are CAREC's programmes on the harmonisation of water quality standards, the application of IWRM based basin planning in transboundary small watersheds, support towards comparable environmental indicators and environmental performance reviews and the development of Shared Environmental Information System

EEA:

there are no mechanisms for monitoring progress and facilitate implementation which leave the process weak in terms of enforcement of the commitments taken during the conferences.

2.4. Encourage the participation of civil society

AUSTRIA:

The questions under this heading are difficult to answer. The process was and is of particular importance for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, because it covers the whole European region and provides possibilities for enhancing environmental issues which are not dealt with in other fora. For EU countries and to some extent also for South-East Europe there are a variety of other fora or instruments which support environmental policies and implementation. The participation and cooperation with civil society has a long tradition in Western European Countries. For the other sub-regions, this is still a new field and in this regard the UNECE and the Efe-process can be very helpful.

AZERBAIJAN:

In 2003 was adopted the "Environmental education and awareness of the population about the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "Environmental education and awareness programs in the state writing", "advisory councils for environmental education and awareness of the" Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on approval of the relevant decisions.

In order to ensure the environmental education and awareness of the population there was included Department of Environmental advocacy in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

The Measurements of environmental awareness of public and environmental awareness are reflected in the National Strategy plan, National and State programs adopted in the field of environmental protection.

Regulated by legislation on environmental protection measures have been implemented to ensure the participation of the public in public administration, environmental advocacy, and community education and monitoring activities given priority. Environmental issues related to the practice of participation of civil society in the decision-making process have been improved.

The legal basis for this process in 1999 by the Republic of Azerbaijan "On environmental issues related to access to information, public participation in decision-making, and on the holding of the court of justice," the Aarhus Convention was ratified by a large and important work has been done in this direction.

Thus, significant reforms were carried out in the legislation, including "Information relating to the environment", "Access to information", "About environmental education and enlightenment", "On administrative proceedings", Non-governmental organizations (public associations and funds), Law and other rules and regulation have been adopted.

Under the competence of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as NGO's, public representatives was established Public Environmental Council.

The protection and improvement of the environment, environmental security and sustainable use of nature in the projects, proposals, programs and other measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the United Nations' Environment Matters public participation and access to information on the administration of justice "(Aarhus) Convention, established under the Ministry in order to

increase the efficiency of the implementation of the provisions of, and to conduct consultations in the form of assembly is operating on a voluntary basis.

The main directions of the board of environmental protection, environmental safety, and public opinion in the field of sustainable use of nature by studying the proposals, programs, normative legal acts and prepare them for the propaganda of the environmental flock formation; environmental non-governmental organizations and international organizations the expansion of fund information on the environment, and to make proposals for ensuring the efficient use of environmental measures include other joint.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the interests of citizen participation in public decision-making process in order to ensure the proper working towards the establishment of Aarhus Information Center.

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The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the interests of citizen participation in public decision-making process in order to ensure the proper working towards the establishment of Aarhus Information Center.

BULGARIA:

The “Environment for Europe” process and the ministerial conferences have been and continue to be a forum for encouraging the participation of civil society in the decision-making process on environmental matters.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Aarhus Convention, negotiated at the EfE Aarhus Conference in 1998, is widely regarded as one of the most important tools for implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration – further promotion of the convention, with the focus on its promotion beyond the UNECE borders, including seeking new ratifications, should be a priority.

GREECE:

The EfE process has enabled and encouraged the civil society participation and should continue to build capacity in this direction, since the active involvement of civil society is key in the process of identifying challenges and in ensuring effective implementation of commitments in practice through enhanced ownership and engagement.

NETHERLANDS:

The EfE process has served as a strong propagator of public participation in environmental decision making. The ministerial meeting of EfE in 1998 saw the birth of a now successful Aarhus Convention, which may in the future see a pendant in Latin American region. By playing an exemplary role in promoting the principles of Access in international fora, UNECE MEAs have shown the relevance of this approach.

Under Aarhus Convention Public Participation in International Forums is an important base. This will continue to receive attention.

POLAND:

The EfE process effectively enhances cooperation between the governments from ECE region with all stakeholders, including civil society. EfE process and its ministerial level conferences give an unique opportunity for creating a platform with representatives of governments and all stakeholders to discuss the common ideas and decide on common actions in the area of sustainable development and particularly on environment. Poland, as the EU member state country, has always supported the strong participation of all stakeholders in the process. This is one of the main added values of the EfE, showing a good example of implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which states the importance of broad stakeholders’ involvement in managing and protecting the environment, sharing of information and lessons learned, as well as capacity-building. The UNECE region decided to implement Principle 10 by adopting the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation and access to

justice in environmental matters, which can be seen as the most advanced and inspirational model for other regions, or even at the global level, on the matter of public participation in environmental issues. Poland supports fruitful and open dialogue with partners, which has proved to be a very useful way for establishing efficient cooperation patterns, as well as in improving sustainable development policies.

ROMANIA:

Environmental information is progressively made available and disseminated to the public in order to achieve the widest possible systematic availability. Romania has made great progress in ensuring better access to information and public participation in the decision-making process as well as a substantial contribution to public awareness of environmental matters.

SLOVAKIA:

Involvement of civil society is a key issue in communicating environmental policies. Therefore, all stakeholders should participate in designing the policy. The EfE process may help all stakeholders to discuss environmental issues.

SWITZERLAND:

Through active involvement of NGOs in the whole EfE process

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The participation of civil society is far too focused on European environmental NGOs and not nearly enough on the private sector and other parts of civil society.

BIOTICA:

In general, support to civil society declines. European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the European Union is considered as encouraging the public participation. Unfortunately, environmental NGOs are in disadvantageous position in the ENPI being enforced to compete with authorities and governmental organisations, provide a co-financing that is much more available just for competitors while the ENPI programs are influenced by governments.

CAREC:

Civil society is a crucial force for supporting EfE process, monitoring implementation of national obligations and outcomes of Ministerial conferences and providing a platform for civil society .

CAREC continues to involve civil society actors in all its activities. And thus to provide a forum for regional cooperation of civil society actors on environmental issues throughout Central Asia.

ECO ACCORD:

EfE process is unique from the point of view of involvement of civil society, creating legislative and organizational mechanisms of public participation.

2.5. Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation

AUSTRIA:

The questions under this heading are difficult to answer. The process was and is of particular importance for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, because it covers the whole European region and provides possibilities for enhancing environmental issues which are not dealt with in other fora. For EU countries and to some extent also for South-East Europe there are a variety of other fora or instruments which support environmental policies and implementation.

BULGARIA:

Promoting horizontal environmental cooperation has been one of the original goals of the “Environment for Europe” process”, which continues to be very relevant.

GERMANY:

The UNECE provides a good platform for broad horizontal cooperation. To make full use of that potential within the EfE process, it would be important to keep focussing on few selected issues of political relevance.

GREECE:

The EfE process, since its very beginning, provided a platform for a unique environmental partnership of the UNECE member states, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders and has acted as a driving force for the development and adoption of important regional initiatives, programmes and strategies to address environmental challenges in the region.

NETHERLANDS:

We believe that Environment for Europe has provided a platform for high level exchange of thoughts, policies, approaches on environmentally related topics. However, as the number and level of participating politicians decreased over the years, relevancy of EfE as a platform for horizontal cooperation has diminished. On a more technical level, the cooperation programmes for capacity building and policy review remain relevant.

POLAND:

Taking into account environmental challenges and promoting broad horizontal environmental

cooperation, environmental pillar of sustainable development in the UNECE region has not yet been fully achieved. Old legacies and old structures are still a big problem. Environmental policies must be driven by strong public awareness and involvement. It requires further political efforts, stronger engagement of all stakeholders and an enhanced focus on implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences by relevant responsible actors in the period between the Conferences. In a horizontal environmental cooperation it is important to adopt and implement all legal instruments, particularly regional conventions and protocols. The MEAs, developed under the EfE process, have shaped in crucial areas the legal frameworks of many countries in the UNECE region. Policy tools and legal instruments developed in the framework of the EfE process have greatly contributed to the preparation of appropriate national legislation and have complemented and promoted environmental governance by strengthening national environmental institutions and policy instruments. Adaptation and implementation of all MEAs under EfE process can strengthen the regional efforts towards sustainable development. Horizontal environmental cooperation should provide to improve the environment in the UNECE region. One of the important issue is to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop SEIS across the region. The Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region provided the most up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of pressing issues related to managing transboundary waters and helped to guide further action. It is important that such region-wide assessment process continues under the UNECE Water Convention to benchmark progress in the use and protection of shared waters.

ROMANIA:

The National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania, Horizon 2013–2020–2030, sets education training, as a cross-cutting policy and a strategic prerequisite for future national development and for effective implementation of the principles of sustainable development

SLOVAKIA:

The EfE process is representing a really unique platform for negotiations and meetings of various groups of stakeholders thus promoting a broad horizontal environmental cooperation that is a great benefit of this process.

BIOTICA:

Horizontal environmental cooperation at the international level is provided by common environmental and agricultural policies, and some river basin agreements in the European Union. It is very low in EECCA where are a few successful examples e.g. creation (designation) of some transboundary biosphere reserves, signing of the new Moldovan-Ukrainian agreement on the Dniester River; at the same time fate of implementation of this agreement is unclear, true sharing and sustainable use of water resources of main rivers in Central Asia and also in Caucasus is still a great problem. World Bank, IUCN and WWF Program on Forest Law and Enforcement and Governance (ENPI-FLEG), financed by the EU, may be noted in this context though just international cooperation aspect is less known here. Lack of the horizontal environmental cooperation at the national level is the well known problem in the EECCA and is linked, among other, with recognized weakness of environmental ministries within governments. Such cooperation is provided by some projects financed through the Global Environmental Facility although that is not linked with the EfE process. The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS - Pan-

European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity now) – specific pan-European instrument is crucial on the backgrounds of (a) some increasing divergence between the EU and EECCA and (b) growing challenges (climate change and biodiversity loss) undermining the human future. Namely, that instrument was totally neglected at the Astana Conference.

CAREC:

The present complexity and interrelatedness of environment, water, and energy issues turns regional cooperation in Central Asia into a challenge. National interests, uncoordinated economic policies, and growing social pressures on governments of each state have reduced the willingness to pursue regional approaches.

3. Progress in promoting the political priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process

The progress (in your country) on EfE political priorities may include:

3.1. Improvement of environmental governance, including strengthening environmental institutions and implementation of policy instruments (*by your country*)

3.1.1. Improvement of environmental governance:

AUSTRIA:

Austria is a federal republic made up of nine states (Länder). Government responsibilities of Austria are shared by three levels of territorial authority, the federation (Bund), the Länder and the 2 358 municipalities. The parliament has two houses, the Nationalrat and the Bundesrat. While members of the Nationalrat are elected by the entire population every four years, the members of the Bundesrat are appointed by the parliaments of the Länder. The Bundesrat's vote can be overridden by simple majority of the Nationalrat, except in a few cases that require both houses' approval. Each Land has an elected legislature and a state government. Since 2000, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW, less formally known as the Lebensministerium or Ministry of Life), has been the main federal body responsible for environmental issues. Many Austrians are members of environmental non-government organisations (NGOs) or alpine associations, indicating a strong interest in environmental policy. In keeping with this, Austria has often been at the forefront of environmental developments in the European Union and internationally.

BULGARIA:

There is a well established environmental governance framework in Bulgaria. The environmental policy is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Water with its structures – Executive Environment Agency, 16 Regional Inspectorates on Environment and Water, 4 River Basin Directorates and 3 National Park Directorates.

FRANCE:

La France a lancé en septembre 2012 un processus de concertation appelé « Conférence environnementale », réunissant tous les acteurs de la société.

Cette Conférence environnementale a pour objet de débattre du programme de travail du gouvernement en matière de développement durable, en particulier de trier et d'isoler les sujets prioritaires pour relever les principaux défis écologiques, de convenir des objectifs à poursuivre, des concertations particulières à mettre en oeuvre et des mesures à prendre sans attendre, et de faire un bilan annuel de tout ce qui a été réalisé.

A cet effet, un Conseil national du débat sur la transition énergétique a été créé le 27 décembre 2012. Le Conseil national du débat permet, de faire dialoguer les acteurs. Il est constitué de sept collèges de représentants des syndicats de salariés, des employeurs, des organisations non gouvernementales environnementales, des associations de consommateurs, familiales, de lutte contre la pauvreté et des chambres consulaires, des associations d'élus locaux, des

parlementaires et des représentants de l'État.

GEORGIA:

Georgia, for promotion of its environmental policies, is considering EFE priorities

GERMANY:

With changing framework conditions, improvement of environmental governance is an on-going process. Therefore, new instruments of environmental governance are being developed. Furthermore, continuous effort is necessary to keep existing standards.

GREECE:

The Greek government is in the process of reforming the structure of public administration to render it more efficient, effective and to provide better quality services to citizens. In the framework of this reform, the new organisation chart under preparation for the Ministry of Environment aims at improving the horizontal coordination at the central level, optimizing human resources management, promoting administrative efficacy and decentralisation of responsibilities, modernization, rationalization and adaptation to international and EU standards.

At the local level, the structure of local government has already been re-organised through implementation of the 2010 "Kallikratis" reform plan, which aims at enhancing the effectiveness of government's administrative operations.

ISRAEL:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for the formulation of a nationwide, integrated, and inclusive policy for the protection of the environment. The ministry operates on three levels: national, regional, and local.

At the national level, the ministry is responsible for developing an integrated and comprehensive governmental policy, as well as strategies, standards, and priorities for environmental protection. To this end, the ministry has professional divisions and departments that deal with a myriad of environmental issues, as well as with its administrative mechanisms and public relations. At the regional level, the ministry is divided into six districts that operate according to their specific needs: Central, Haifa, Jerusalem, Northern, Tel Aviv, and Southern. The districts' responsibilities include:

- Implementation of national policy
- Involvement in planning processes
- Teaching municipalities about their environmental responsibilities
- Supervision and enforcement of environmental laws in municipalities
- Formulating requirements and environmental conditions for the acquisition of business licenses
- Supervision and direction of environmental units
- Initiating and promoting environmental projects in districts.

At the local level, the ministry lends support to 52 environmental units—environmental units

are municipal organizations that deal with environmental issues at the local level—and towns associations that have been established in municipalities throughout the country. They are responsible for bringing to fruition, on a local level, the national environmental policy. They also constitute an advisory body for local authorities on environmental issues.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В целях исключения совмещения контролирующих и регулирующих функций в одном государственном органе, постановлением Правительства Кыргызской Республики от 12 января 2012 года N 12 «Об органах государственного управления при Правительстве Кыргызской Республики и других организациях в ведении Правительства Кыргызской Республики» определено, что при Правительстве Кыргызской Республики и в его подчинении действует Государственная инспекция по экологической и технической безопасности при Правительстве Кыргызской Республики (Инспекция).

MONACO:

Le Gouvernement Princier a élaboré un projet de Code de l'environnement, déposé au Conseil National en décembre 2008, et toujours à l'étude à ce jour.

L'ambition de ce texte pourrait se résumer en une phrase : « Le droit à un environnement sain ». Il couvre l'ensemble des volets liés à la protection de la nature et des milieux, aux pollutions, aux risques et nuisances et au renforcement de la qualité de vie.

NETHERLANDS:

Since the 1970s The Netherlands has developed a range of laws that aim to improve the environmental quality. Currently the Environmental Management Act forms the basis of many of the protection measures. Soon, the new Environmental Planning Act will incorporate environmental protection and economic activities, taking into consideration our obligations to international agreements and commitments.

POLAND:

Poland created a comprehensive system of strategic documents for improvement of the governance system, including sustainable development. The main documents are long-term and mid-term development strategies and 9 thematic strategies. 1. Long-term Development Strategy 2030 (coordinated by The Chancellery of The Prime Minister), 2. Mid-term Development Strategy 2020 (coordinated by Ministry of Regional Development) 3. and nine integrated strategies (2020):

1. Innovation and Efficiency of Economy Strategy (coordination - Ministry of Economy)
2. Human Capital Development Strategy (coordination – The Chancellery of The Prime Minister)
3. Transport Development Strategy (coordination – Ministry of Infrastructure)
4. Energy Safety and Environment (coordination – Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Environment) - the policy instrument targeted at sustainable and low emission growth. It builds on the Environmental Policy of 1991 and tries to combine environmental strategy with energy policy as these two fields very often overlap and their smart combination should bring important synergies.

5. Efficient State (coordination – Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration)
6. Society Capital Development Strategy (coordination – Ministry of Culture and National Heritage)
7. Regional Development Strategy (coordination – Ministry of Regional Development)
8. National Security Strategy (coordination – Ministry of National Defence)
9. Sustainable Development of Rural Areas and Agriculture Strategy (co-ordination – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

This gives us a clear picture concerning environmental governance.

ROMANIA:

- inter-ministerial committees on environmental issues

SWITZERLAND:

Swiss comments: as “improvement of environmental governance” is an ongoing process which is never completely achieved, we decided to ticked both boxes (in progress + accomplished)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. is firmly committed to strong environmental and is constantly seeking ways to make it more effective but the EfE does not and should not contribute to this effort.

CAREC:

Regional environmental governance in Central Asia is shared between several institutions such as the Interstate Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the Interstate Committee on Water Coordination (ICWC), the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), with sometimes overlapping, or conflicting mandates.

CAREC is the only regional non-governmental organisation mandated both, by the governments and civil society to assist in solving both national- and regional environmental problems in Central Asia. CAREC continues to use its mandate and expertise for supporting multi-state and -sectoral dialogues sharing its expertise so as to support the development of environmental cooperation in the region.

Most of the above activities are supported by donors and implemented by CAREC.

ECO ACCORD:

In Russia the process of improvement of environmental governance is in progress, but it is not closely related to EfE

GREEN LIBERTY :

Economic recession has resulted in the weakening of environmental institutions and their capacity to monitor environmental pressures and implement regulations.

3.1.2. Strengthening environmental institutions:

AUSTRIA:

Austria has well-established environmental organizations and institutions. There is no need for further strengthening of environmental institutions. In addition we support measures with focus on the Balkans

BULGARIA:

The Ministry of Environment and Water and its structures have the necessary capacity to fulfil their tasks.

FRANCE:

Le ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie prépare et met en oeuvre la politique du Gouvernement dans les domaines du développement durable, de l'environnement et des technologies vertes, de l'énergie, notamment en matière tarifaire, du climat, de la sécurité industrielle, des transports et de leurs infrastructures, de l'équipement, de la mer, à l'exception de la construction et de la réparation navales, ainsi que dans les domaines de la pêche maritime et des cultures marines.

Il élabore et met en oeuvre la politique de lutte contre le réchauffement climatique et la pollution atmosphérique. Il promeut une gestion durable des ressources rares.

GEORGIA:

The institutional and functional reinforcement process of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia is accomplished. The budget of the Ministry of Environment Protection has been doubled. Due to the reinforcement of the Ministry's departments as well as the creation of new ones the number of employees increased by 600 staff members.

GREECE:

Among the four pillars of the "Program of Development Interventions for the Real Economy" of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change for the period 2010-2015, is the strengthening of mechanisms and institutions of environmental governance through a set of actions. The total investment budget included under this pillar is the €846.7 million.

Moreover, in the framework of the new law on environmental permitting, there are provisions for the establishment of a single licensing authority at central level under the Ministry of Environment, which is expected to contribute to a more efficient and effective administrative

structure for environmental licensing.

In 2010, the Special Secretariat for the Environment and Energy Inspectorate (SSEEI) was established (Law 3818/2010), for the supervision and coordination of the competent regional and local Services in order to ensure full compliance with the relevant provisions of the existing environment and energy legal framework.

The Special Secretariat for the Environment and Energy Inspectorate consists of:

1. The Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate, responsible for carrying out inspections in order to monitor compliance with the environmental permits for projects of the private and public sectors.
2. The Office for Demolition of Unauthorised Constructions, which is responsible, with the technical assistance of the National Cadastre, for identifying unauthorised constructions in specific areas in the Attica Prefecture (areas destroyed by the fires in August 2009, as defined under article 1 – par. 1 of Law 3818) and implementing the relevant demolition acts on those constructions.
3. The Independent Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability (SYGAPEZ), which was established through Presidential Decree 148/2009 for incorporating the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) 2004/35/EC, and is responsible for the implementation of activities aiming at the prevention and remediation of environmental damages.
4. The Hellenic Energy Inspectorate, responsible for monitoring the implementation of national policy objectives on energy saving and energy efficiency and of the provisions of Law 3661/2008 on “Measures for the reduction of energy consumption in buildings”, incorporating Directive 2002/91 on the energy performance of buildings.

ISRAEL:

The MoEP supports and cooperates with environmental units and urban associations within local authorities. These units also act as environmental consultants to local authorities—offering them professional assistance and coordinating activities between those who work with municipalities on environmental matters of all kinds. As of January 2013, there are 52 such environmental units.

The ministry lends financial support to the environmental units, which helps fund both workers' salaries and professional activities. The level of support is dependent upon the size of the unit, the municipality's population, the geographical size of the area, and other factors. Given the ministry's goal of expanding utilization of environmental units, we are working to expand the powers of the units and to train employees and managers in additional related areas.

NETHERLANDS:

Recently, Regional Environmental Protection Agencies were formed, that play an important role in local implementation of environmental policy. The establishment of a new Inspectorate for Environment and Transport also contributes to the further strengthening of our environmental institutions.

POLAND:

According to the Polish Environmental Law, all administrative regions are due to elaborate and

adopt environmental programs or plans that are coherent with national environmental policy. There are three administrative levels (voivodeships, powiats, gminas) The voivodeships are subdivided into powiats (often referred to in English as counties), and these are further divided into gminas (also known as communes). Major cities normally have the status of both gmina and powiat. Poland currently has 16 voivodeships, 379 powiats (including 65 cities with powiat status), and 2,478 gminas.

SWITZERLAND:

Swiss comments: as “improvement of environmental governance” is an ongoing process which is never completely achieved, we decided to ticked both boxes (in progress + accomplished)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. is firmly committed to strong environmental and is constantly seeking ways to make it more effective but the EfE does not and should not contribute to this effort.

CAREC:

Herewith CAREC contributes via working with national ministries of environmental protection, water, energy, industry, agriculture, emergency situations, statistical agencies, national and interstate basin organizations, educational institutions, as well as, with local authorities, scientific institutes, NGOs.

ECO ACCORD:

The process is in progress, but is not closely related to EfE

GREEN LIBERTY:

Despite some positive trends, not as much ecological modernization has taken place in Eastern and Central Europe as expected. In some cases, ecological subversion could be observed, including intentional dismantling of environmental institutions and suppression of environmental issues and interest organizations.

3.1.3. Implementation of policy instruments:

AUSTRIA:

During the 2000s, the demand for environmental quality was also reflected in the adoption of two strategies for sustainable development. Because of a well-established Environmental legislation, Austrian environmental infringements are below the EU average. Austria is one of the few countries that have an integrated approach to environmental impact assessment (EIA) and permitting. A variety of mechanisms are in place to assess, ex ante, environmental and other policies, including strategic environmental assessment and regulatory impact assessment.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria implements its environmental policy through different policy instruments – legal, economic, administrative, etc.

GERMANY:

Legislation is continuously being reviewed. If necessary and appropriate, new legislation is being introduced.

GREECE:

Key sectors encompassed in the national strategic approach to green economy are energy, agriculture, tourism, urban and spatial planning particularly in coastal zones. National policies that aim at increasing resource efficiency, resource productivity and promotion of sustainable consumption and production, focus on:

- the use of smart legislation to provide clear signals and market predictability for business to invest in the right technologies and models,
- the promotion of sustainable production and consumption instruments such as eco-design, eco-labeling, green public procurement and environmental management and audit scheme (EMAS),
- the development of innovation partnerships related to key resources - such as water or raw materials - or to policy areas such as agriculture where resources are put under pressure,
- market-based and fiscal incentives to reduce resource use, as well as,
- the promotion of adequate financial instruments, such as subsidies for decreasing the energy footprint of old buildings through adequate refurbishments boosting in parallel the related businesses and industry.

The Ministry of Environment, as mentioned above, has drawn up, in 2010, a “Program of Development Interventions for the Real Economy” aiming at increasing development investments, reforming the production basis of the economy and reinvigorating economic activity, balancing rural development, creating new jobs and reducing unemployment. Its principles and requirements include investments in education, in knowledge-base expansion, in innovation and in new technologies.

The Program introduces a cross-sectoral approach with four thematic pillars:

- Addressing climate change challenges and transition to a competitive low-carbon economy (e.g. by promoting the penetration of RES, energy saving and energy demand management, increase of energy efficiency etc);
- Sustainable management of natural resources (e.g. integrated management of ecosystems, water and forest resources, risk planning and management, rehabilitation and landscape preservation);
- Improvement of quality of life based on an environmental-friendly approach (e.g. improvement of social and productivity cohesion, revitalizing of rural and degraded urban areas, sustainable mobility, integrated waste management etc);
- Reinforcement of institutional tools and mechanisms for environmental governance (e.g. reinforcement of inspection instruments, improvement of public access to environmental

information, education and awareness raising etc).

Recent Laws 4014/2011 and 4042/2012 considerably contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned objectives through the procedural simplification of the environmental permitting process of projects and activities, the criminal protection of the environment and the restructuring of the national system for waste management, giving emphasis to waste minimization, recycling, reduce and reuse in practice.

More specifically, Law 4014/2011 aims at accelerating environmental permitting and licensing procedures, decentralizing competencies for environmental licencing, reducing bureaucratic and administrative burdens, enhancing transparency and promoting stakeholder participation in decision making. To this end, the following steps/tools are established:

1. Standardisation of the administrative procedure for the approval, renewal or amendment of the decision setting the environmental terms for the operation of activities and projects.
2. Minimisation of the number of competent Ministries involved in the permitting procedure.
3. New classification of projects and activities based on their environmental impact and introduction of Standardised Environmental Specifications for the permitting of low-impact installations.
4. Improvement of the administrative structure of environmental licensing services by establishing a single licensing authority at central level under the Ministry of Environment.
5. Introduction of dispute resolution councils dealing with particular cases, both at central/Ministry of Environment level, as well as at regional level.
6. Establishment of a Digital Environmental Registry enhancing public access to environmental information.

ISRAEL:

Israel is currently in the process of implementing several measures which will enhance environmental protection, the main measures being:

- Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Mechanism – The Parliament approved the Environmental Protection Law (Pollutant Release and Transfer - Registering and Reporting Obligation) in March 2012. It requires industries to report the annual quantity of emissions of pollutants and wastes from facilities with the most significant environmental impact. Israel has ratified the UNECE Kiev Protocol, and has requested to publish its PRTR data in the E-PRTR, which will be operational in December 2013.
- Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)- MoEP is leading Israel's move toward progressive environmental regulation through the establishment of the IPPC system (under European directive—IED). The will streamline existing permits into one integrated permit, thus creating one unified and simplified approval procedure. A "green license" would serve as a one-stop shop; it would remove obstacles such as bureaucratic and cumbersome licensing procedures, lack of centralized information, and inadequate government support, while providing certainty to the drivers of change in the industrial sector, facilitating high environmental performance and serving as a green track to innovation.
- Recycling Action Plan- the MoEP launched this plan in July 2010. It is based on the separation of waste into two streams—compostable and non-compostable—and aims to increase household waste recycling up to 50% in 2020 (as compared to 80% today). The plan addresses large-scale recycling of household waste and reduction of landfilling by simultaneous implementation of a mix of measures: increasing the landfill levy; providing dedicated assistance to local authorities in establishing systems for the separation of household

waste into two streams; strengthening existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system and introducing new ones; supporting the construction of recycling plants; and supporting the creation of markets for recovered products.

- Electronic waste - The bill has been approved on May 2012 and will come into force in 2014. It proposes that manufacturers and importers of electronic equipment will be responsible for their products throughout the whole lifecycle, even after the consumer will cease to use them. They will be required to recycle half of the equipment sold by them throughout the year. Shops selling all kinds of batteries will be required to accept these products back after use. Local authorities will be responsible for separation of the electronic waste from the domestic one. The bill proposes that starting 2020, landfilling of electronic waste will be prohibited entirely, except for recycling by-products.

MONACO:

Le Gouvernement Princier met en oeuvre un Plan Energie Climat répondant à deux enjeux majeurs : la lutte contre le changement climatique et la sécurisation énergétique du pays.

Le Gouvernement s'est engagé dans le processus de labellisation de son « Plan Energie Climat » par la réalisation, en 2012, d'un état des lieux des actions entreprises et des politiques engagées, afin de présenter d'ici quatre ans sa demande de labellisation auprès de l'EEA (European Energy Award).

L'European Energy Award est une démarche reconnue par la Commission Européenne. Ce label récompense les collectivités qui sont engagées dans un processus de management de qualité, appliqué à la mise en oeuvre de leur politique énergie climat au niveau de leur territoire.

NETHERLANDS:

During the 1990s a number of Environmental Policy Plans were produced. These plans were the first integrative documents that brought developments of different sectors and under the responsibility of multiple ministers under one policy plan. The 4th – and until now most recent – environmental policy plan appeared in 2001. In 2006 an implementation agenda was developed.

POLAND:

Poland implemented policy documents of the European Union in the area of sustainable development. Document promoting the concept of sustainability in Poland, based on UE strategy Europe 2020, is the National Reform Programme (NRP), which presents the response of the country to the challenges to be faced in the upcoming years. The NRP has been structured to promote three main priorities: Smart growth - developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth - promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy and Inclusive growth - fostering a high-employment economy ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion. In general, sustainable development principles have been incorporated in a comprehensive, horizontal way in all strategic documents, policies and programmes. We believe that achievement of those objectives will be the key to the implementation of the social vision of market economy for the 21th century.

ROMANIA:

Complying with the Acquis Communautaire referring environment: drinking water supply in

all localities, waste water treatment, noise protection, closing waste dumpsites not complying with requirements, renewing the technology of central heating systems and improving energy efficiency, increasing use of renewable resources, rehabilitation of polluted areas etc

SWITZERLAND:

Swiss comments: as “improvement of environmental governance” is an ongoing process which is never completely achieved, we decided to ticked both boxes (in progress + accomplished)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. is firmly committed to strong environmental and is constantly seeking ways to make it more effective but the EfE does not and should not contribute to this effort.

CAREC:

This priority in Central Asian states is implementing via involvement of national experts into EfE working groups and processes, organization of seminars, study tours and other capacity building events for practitioners, application of Integrated Approach for the development of low carbon development strategies, introduction of Integrated Water Resources Management principles and basin management, development of Shared Environmental Information System, implementing assessment of environmental assessments, etc.

Scenario approach can be considered as the neutral instrument for developing mutually acceptable mechanisms for different environment and development issues in Central Asia, such as Integrated Water Resources Management, Low Carbon Development, etc. CAREC supports this scenario approach and interested to enhance its application in the region.

3.2. Streamlining the implementation by your Government of commitments made to existing ECE legally binding and legally non-binding instruments

Overall assessment:

BULGARIA:

All ratified by Bulgaria UNECE legally binding are implemented.

FINLAND:

Generally for all questions under this item: the activities are to large extent carried out regardless to the EfE process. However, especially in water related issues but to some extent also otherwise EfE has given us added value and opened for engagement in both regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation and donor activities in the EECCA region.

GEORGIA:

Georgia is a party to the Air Pollution Convention and its EMEP Protocol, and the Aarhus Convention.

Implemented activities concerning the Conventions and Protocols, which are not ratified by Georgia yet (Water Convention ; Protocol on Water and Health; Industrial Accidents Convention; Protocol on Civil Liability; Espoo Convention; Protocol on SEA; Protocol on PRTRs) please, see below in the respective items

ISRAEL:

Israel has so far not joined most of the UNECE MEA's. Israel does not share a common frontier with any UNECE member country.

Israel has, however, ratified the UNECE Kiev Protocol. Although regulating information on pollution, rather than pollution directly, the Protocol is expected to exert a significant downward pressure on levels of pollution, as companies will not want to be identified as among the biggest polluters.

The Kiev Protocol is coherent and designed to be user-friendly and publicly accessible. It also allows for public participation in its development and modification, thus serving the mechanism of encouraging the participation of civil society. The Kiev Protocol promotes a broad cooperation of the Government (regulator), the polluting industries, and the public (the people effected by the pollution).

KYRGYZSTAN:

Рационализация процесса осуществления существующих юридически обязательных и юридически необязательных инструментов ЕЭК ООН проводится в рамках международных Конвенций, стороной которых является Кыргызская Республика.

NETHERLANDS:

Most of the obligations stemming from MEAs have been transposed into Dutch law through the Environmental Management Act. A number of non-binding instruments have been implemented through multi-annual policy plans.

POLAND:

Efficient implementation of all commitments written in existing UNECE legally-binding and legally non-binding instruments- conventions, protocols, declarations etc.

ROMANIA:

At the Seventh Ministerial Conference, which took place in Astana (Kazakhstan) in September 2011, Romania presented two priority actions for implementation on “sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems”, one of the two core Conference themes, and on “greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development”. The first priority action refers to the “Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project”, co-financed by the World Bank, which aims to reduce over the long term the discharge of nutrients into watercourses leading to the Danube River and the Black Sea, through integrated land and water management, and to strengthen the Government’s institutional and regulatory capacity to meet the EU requirements on water protection. The second priority action is to fully implement the provisions of the bilateral transboundary waters agreement for the protection and sustainable use of the Prut and Danube rivers, signed in 2010 with the Republic of Moldova. The agreement is based on the provisions of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, as well as the EU Water Framework Directive. The multilateral Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters has been established but specific sub-commissions have to be set up with terms of reference and technical regulations on protection against floods, exchange of hydro-meteorological data, water protection, and procedure in case of accidental pollutions of waters.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. is firmly committed to implementing the commitments that it makes. But that is not influenced by the EfE process. We have sought to focus the EfE on implementation and to promote a strong commitment of those facilitating the various instruments to work with countries to fully understand the commitments required to implement new instruments before joining them, as we do in the U.S., but this has not been as successful as we would have hoped for.

CAREC:

Since being established in 2001, CAREC supported national governments to participate in the EfE process and to implement their commitments in the following areas: environmental governance, water resources management, Education for Sustainable Development, climate change and sustainable energy, participation of civil society and environmental awareness.

<p>Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) and its Protocols</p>	<p>3.2.1. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>1979 Convention: Ratification 16.12.1982; 1984 EMEP Protocol: Accession 04.06.1987; 1985 Sulphur Protocol: Ratification 04.06.1987; 1988 NO_x Protocol: Ratification 15.01.1990; 1991 VOC Protocol: Ratification 23.08.1994; 1994 Sulphur Protocol: Ratification 27.08.1998; 1998 Heavy Metals Protocol: 17.12.2003; 1998 POPs Protocol: 27.08.2002.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>In 2002 the Republic of Azerbaijan had ratified the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution of UNECE adopted on November 13, 1979 in Geneva.</p> <p>National Focal Point for the Convention was appointed and working groups was established.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria has signed and ratified the Convention and all its protocols.</p> <p>Georgia: Georgia acceded to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in 1999.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>Greece ratified the Air Pollution Convention (Law 1374/1983, OJG 91/A/08-07-1983), as well as the following Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The EMEP Protocol (Law 1752/1988, OJG 26/A/16-02-88), <input type="checkbox"/> The SO₂ Protocol (Law 1752/1988, OJG 26/A/16-02-88), <input type="checkbox"/> The NO_x Protocol (Law 2543/1997, OJG 252/A/15-12-97), <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions ((Law 2542/1997, OJG 251/A/15-12-97). <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>ratified 22 Sept 1980</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KAZAKHSTAN:</p> <p>Принята только Конвенция, присоединение к протоколам рассматривается, планируется присоединиться к протоколу ЕМЕП. По остальным протоколам еще не принято политическое решение. Подготовлены обоснования по присоединению к протоколам по</p>

СОЗ, ТМ и Гетеборгскому протоколу.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Протоколы конвенции не ратифицированы, вместе с тем рассматривается вопрос ратификации в будущем.

POLAND:

PL ratified Convention and one of its Protocols, namely Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe – Protocol EMEP

ROMANIA:

In 2003, Romania ratified the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its three protocols on reduction of acidification, eutrophication and the level of troposphere ozone layer

SWEDEN:

The amended Gothenburg Protocol and the amended Protocol on Heavy Metals from 2012 have not yet been ratified by Sweden.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has ratified the Convention in 1983 as well as subsequently all 8 Protocols to the Convention. Switzerland also has been actively involved in the recent revisions of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. The procedure for ratification of these revised Protocols is currently under preparation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We are strongly committed to this Convention and the protocols to which we have acceded but this commitment is not influenced by the Efe process.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.2. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

Requirements of the Protocols fulfilled by mandatory environmental standards, licensing procedures, economic instruments etc.

AZERBAIJAN:

The Republic of Azerbaijan performs appropriate activities within the pilot project on “Assessment of National capacity to join to the protocols of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution” in order to join to the protocols on “Heavy Metals”, “Persistent Organic Pollutants”, “Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone”, “Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)”.

In order to ratify these four protocols of the Convention within the pilot project and to fulfill commitments in this field the “Road map” is being developed with participation of international experts. In addition it’s considered to conduct the seminars to instruct the experts in this field in October and December this year.

Close relationship has been created with the group of coordination of countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia operating in activities of the bodies of the Convention as well.

Established working group translated the Protocol on “Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)” into Azerbaijani language.

Within “Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)” of the Convention Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic and The Chemical Coordination Center operating under Norwegian Institute for Air Research launched “The first level background monitoring station” in the area of Altiaghaj National Park in February 2012.

BULGARIA:

The Convention and the Protocols are implemented.

GEORGIA:

Only EMEP Protocol is ratified in 2013. Georgia has one EMEP station in Abastumani. The station was established in 2008 under financial and technical support of the Norwegian Government through Norwegian Institute for Air research (NILU). In this station the following samples are determined: Sulphur Dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphate, ammoniac,

	<p>nitrate, ammonia, nitrogen acid, potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, PM10.</p> <p>The European Union is implementing a four year regional project on air quality governance in the ENPI East Countries. Taking into consideration that one of the highest priorities in the context of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) today is the implementation of the Convention and its protocols in Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries, the Air Quality Governance project has launched a regional pilot project, entitled Assessment and enhancement of national capacities for joining CLRTAP protocols and meeting corresponding commitments, encompassing four countries, one of them is Georgia. The duration of the project is planned for 12 months, during which the following four activities will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of country road maps for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols • Development of individual feasibility studies for National Action Plans scenarios for implementing selected protocols • Development of cost-benefit analysis of consequences and risks from ratification and implementation of selected protocols • Development of individual National Actions Plans for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols. <p>The successful implementation of the above listed activities is expected to enhance Georgia's capacity of joining the CLRTAP protocols and meeting corresponding commitments. The activities and tasks will be carried out in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders of the participating country.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>Partially implemented as regards the recording and monitoring for air pollutants' data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>Within the scope as mentioned above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>The obligations of all Protocols to the Convention are well implemented in national legislation. The Federal Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC) defines effect-oriented air quality standards as well as emission limit values based on best available technology that are compatible with the relevant Protocols. The Federal Ordinance on Chemical Risk Reduction regulates the production, import, supply, use and export of POPs according to the obligations of the Protocol on POPs.</p> <p>The national emission ceilings for SO₂, NO_x, VOC and NH₃ set forth in the Gothenburg Protocol for 2010 and thereafter have been achieved by Switzerland. Between 1990 and 2010 the emissions of NO_x have been</p>
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reduced by 46%, emissions of VOC and SO₂ by 70% each and emissions of NH₃ by 13%.

In agreement with the Protocols on Heavy Metals substantial reductions of emissions of heavy metals have been achieved. Between 1990 and 2010 the emissions of lead have been reduced by 93%, emissions of cadmium by 65% and emissions of mercury by 86%.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We are strongly committed to this Convention and the protocols to which we have acceded but this commitment is not influenced by the EUE process.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

Herewith CAREC in cooperation with REC and Italian Trust Fund implemented the project "School Environment and Respiratory Health of Children" SEARCH II (2010-2013) for the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Tajikistan.

The overall goal of the project was to improve children's health and the indoor environment in schools in Europe, through an active involvement of and cooperation with the three main sectors concerned - environment, health and education.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- To promote the SEARCH Initiative widely in Europe;
- To develop programs to increase awareness and knowledge of environment and health related issues in the state schools;
- To train school staff in order to promote implementation of these programs at the local level

3.2.3. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AUSTRIA:

Annual reporting of inventory information; policy reporting according to decisions of the Executive Body.

GEORGIA:

Country each year provides NFR report to CEIP and LRTAP Convention Secretariat.

	<p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>Reports are submitted regularly on air pollutants' data. Additionally, in case of an air pollution episode, information on the evolution of the event is disseminated on an hourly basis through the Internet, radio and TV broadcasts, and implementation of relevant emergency measures (e.g. guidance to vulnerable social groups) is foreseen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Switzerland is annually submitting air quality monitoring data as well as an emission inventory including an Informative Inventory Report (IIR). Data on effects monitoring are submitted according to the work plan of the Working Group on Effects. Switzerland is also regularly reporting on strategies and policies concerning implementation of the obligations of the Protocols.</p> <p>Switzerland is currently in compliance with all reporting obligations of the Convention and its Protocols.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>We are strongly committed to this Convention and the protocols to which we have acceded but this commitment is not influenced by the EfE process.</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
<p>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>3.2.4. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>The UN-ECE Water Convention is the key basis for our work in the three international River Commissions we are sharing (Danube, Rhine and Elbe) as well as for our bilateral trans-boundary water commissions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>The convention on "Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Streams and International Lakes" was ratified by the National Parliament in 14.03.2000 and entered into force with being approved by the decree of the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 03.08.2000. Azerbaijan has closely participated in the activities within the convention, as well as performed the activities related to monitoring and assessment of</p>

Transboundary Rivers and International Lakes, Integrated Water Resources Management and etc. since became the member of the convention.

GEORGIA:

A draft “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of Georgia on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin” is developed. On April 29-30, 2013 Georgia hosted the delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan on further development of the text of the Agreement. This agreement will serve as a step forward to the ratification of the Convention.

GREECE:

Greece has ratified and is implementing the Helsinki Water Convention since 1996 (Law 2425/1996, OJG 148/A/04-07-96). On 19 March 2013, Greece ratified the amendments of articles 25 and 26 of the Convention (Law 4137/2013, OJG 71/A/19-03-13). The original national instrument of Acceptance of the Amendments to the articles 25 and 26 of the Convention was deposited to the UNSG on 3rd of June 2013.

HUNGARY:

signed 18 March 1992, approved 2 Sept 1994 (amendments accepted 20 June 2005)

KYRGYZSTAN:

Не являясь стороной данной Конвенции, Кыргызстан принимает активное участие в мероприятиях, проводимых Секретариатом Конвенции, а также в разработке двух Оценок трансграничных рек, озер и подземных вод.

ROMANIA:

Considering that Romania is almost entirely situated within the Danube basin (97.4 per cent) and that the Romanian Danube delta (the country’s most important protected area) is also the end carrier of all wastewater discharges from upstream countries to the Black Sea, the Danube River Protection Convention, the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health are among the most important MEAs for the country. These regional agreements also provide a framework for multilateral and bilateral cooperation with specific priorities and tasks. The most important activities developed in this connection are the project for the integrated management of the Tisza River basin (the largest sub-basin in the Danube River basin) and the Danube River Basin Management Plan, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on 16

February 2010. At this meeting held in Vienna, Ministers responsible for water management from the Danube River basin countries and the European Commission endorsed the 'Danube Declaration', which expresses the commitment to further reinforce transboundary cooperation on sustainable water resource management within the Danube River basin.

SLOVAKIA:

Slovakia since beginning of the history of Water Convention actively cooperates on its many activities, e.g. monitoring and assessment, Protocol on Water and Health, later in activities of IRBM.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have agreements with the countries with which we share waters. We also have strong water laws domestically. Those agreements and laws predate the Water Convention and while we welcome the contribution of the Convention we do not foresee joining it.

ECO-TIRAS:

The accession to the Convention is still a problem for a part of EECCA countries, especially those of upstream. The efforts should be done for explanation of the consultative role of the convention and its added values.

3.2.5. Implementation:

AZERBAIJAN:

Gazakh and Beylagan laboratories were established in order to provide operative water quality control for the water of transboundary rivers Araz and Kura towards the fulfillment of the obligations within the convention on "Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Streams and International Lakes". The project on "Joint management of rivers" funded by TESIS-II Program started from 2008 and was ongoing till 2011. As well was extended one more year till the end of 2012 within TESIS-III Program. This project supplied technical assistance with the amount of 500,000 € for provision of capacity building and identification of hot points, and provision of the laboratories with modern facilities for monitoring of transboundary rivers, as well as Kura and Ganikh rivers and also gave its support for application of biological and hydromorphological monitoring as it plays important role in environmental assessment in the field of monitoring. New project on "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" in order to provide assistance for implementation of the European Union Convention started from 2012. In the framework of Water Initiatives of European Union Convention

“Water Strategy” of Azerbaijan for the projects on National Water Policy Dialogs was prepared and submitted to the state authorities for comments. Cooperation within the project on monitoring and management of water resources with the support of UN are one of such of activities. Joint Task Force composed of the specialists of both two countries in the field of water issues carried out two joint monitoring for “Studying and Protection of water quality in Araz river” with application of the paragraphs number 4 and 9 of the protocol number 36 of the permanently functioning joint commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Iran Islamic Republic in the field of use of water and energetic resources of Araz river. As well the agreement was signed between the governments of Russian Federation and Azerbaijan on September 3, 2010 in order to ensure the management and protection of the water of Samur River in accordance with the requirements of the convention. State Water Agency was established with aim of coordinating the organizations in the field of water sector of the country.

BULGARIA:

Water Convention provides a fundamental legal framework for transboundary water cooperation and contributes to the establishment of bilateral and multilateral water agreements and to improving water resources management in the pan-European region. Following the principles of the Water Convention and because of its geographical location, Bulgaria has an active role as party to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and to the Danube River Protection Convention. Bulgaria has signed bilateral agreements and declarations with some of its riparian countries on water management issues.

Bulgaria took part in the preparation of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters through providing the necessary national information for the purposes of the assessment.

Bulgaria has committed an action in the framework of the Astana Water Action and is in process of implementation of the commitment.

Water Convention has significant role for the transboundary cooperation in the field of water management in the region of the South-Eastern Europe.

The provisions of the convention are transposed in the Environment Protection Act and the Water Act. It is implemented Permits, control, sanctions, environmental impact assessment,

Monitoring.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Czech Republic is an active member of the 3 transboundary commissions for Danube, Elbe and Oder. The Czech Republic concluded 4 bilateral agreements with Slovakia, Poland, Austria and Germany.

FINLAND:

Finland is Party in the UNECE Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health. Finland is also Party related to the Amendments of Articles 25 and 26 of the Water Convention. Finland has ratified the UN 1997 Water Convention. In the field of water management Finland has ratified and is active in implementing the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Finland has agreements related to transboundary river basin cooperation with Russia (since 1964), Sweden (since 1971) and Norway (since 1981). Transboundary river basin commissions have been established to deal with the cooperation.

The UNECE convention and the bilateral transboundary waters work have given synergies to each other. Finland's activities in the Water Convention also includes donor projects and cooperation.

FRANCE:

La convention eau est mise en oeuvre grâce à la législation communautaire (directive cadre sur l'eau) et les politiques nationales.

GEORGIA:

Despite the fact that Georgia is not a Party to the Water Convention, representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia actively participate in the meetings of the Working Groups under the Convention and take part in the activities and studies under the Convention, preparing documents such as First and Second assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater in the UNECE region etc.

GREECE:

Greece participates in all sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention either through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or through the Ministry of Environment / Special Secretariat on Water. During the last 6th MOP in Rome, in November 2012, Greece, as lead country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, participated in the organization, together with other key entities (e.g. UNECE Secretariat and Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat), of an International Roundtable on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southern Mediterranean, on 26-27 Nov. 2012, to promote ratification and implementation of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention for its "globalization". Moreover, Greece, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has participated actively in the elaboration of a study regarding the implementation of the Convention on transboundary groundwaters, which received a very positive assessment during the 6th MOP.

Based on the provisions of the Convention and, clearly, on the EU Water Framework Directive, Greece has signed with upstream neighboring

	<p>Bulgaria and Turkey, since 2010, and is implementing Agreements through Joint Technical Working Groups.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Slovakia as an EU member implements most of key objectives of the Water Convention through implementation of the EU directives. Moreover National Report on implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health is regularly in a two- year period submitted to the Government.</p> <p>In 2009-2012 Slovakia was a successful host to the International Water Assessment Centre operating under the Water Convention</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC supports this Convention via its activities on small transboundary watersheds that support application of IWRM principles and integration of environmental improvements into development plans, transboundary cooperation by establishing joint bodies and implementing joint activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eco-TIRAS:</p> <p>the old-type of the great majority of the inter-state water agreements do not permit to manage the transboundary watercourses in integrated style to have a maximum outcomes from the Convention application</p>
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Protocol on Water and Health	3.2.6. Status (more than one box can be ticked):
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>A broad set of national legislation as well as implemented legislation on EU level is in place to protect all freshwaters in Austria. Furthermore inter-ministerial cooperation in the field of water and health is well established in Austria. Against this background no ratification is foreseen for the time being.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>Azerbaijan ratified the Convention for protection and use of trans-boundary water courses and international lakes in 2000 and the Protocol for water and health issues in the year of 2002.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria signed the Protocol on Water and Health on 17 June 1999 in London during in the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. It is not ratified.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>In 1999 Georgia signed the Protocol, but the country is not a party yet. However, at a meeting of the EUWI Working Group for the EECCA countries (Ashgabat, 4 December 2008), representatives of Georgia reaffirmed the commitment of the Georgian Government to the process of National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management, one of the components of which is setting goals in accordance with the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>Greece signed the Protocol on 17 Jun 1999. Relevant actions are being implemented in the context of its EU related commitments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>ratified 7 Dec 2001</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KYRGYZSTAN:</p> <p>Вопрос ратификации данного Протокола в процессе рассмотрения, вместе с тем Кыргызстан принимает активное участие в различных мероприятиях, проводимых в рамках данного Протокола. Так, в рамках совместной деятельности проекта: «Установление целевых показателей в контексте Протокола по проблемам воды и здоровья в Кыргызстане» был подготовлен Отчет, который был представлен на</p>

заседании Координационного совета Национального Диалога по Водной Политике .

SLOVAKIA:

SK since beginning of the history of Water Convention actively co-operates on its many activities, e.g. monitoring and assessment, Protocol on Water and Health.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

ECO-TIRAS:

Also not all EECCA ratified the Protocol.

3.2.7 Implementation:

AZERBAIJAN:

It is worth to mention that the country has not determined target indicators on implementation of the Protocol for water and health issues, however as being a Party of the Protocol, a number of National State Programs have been adopted, which aimed achievement of Millennium Development Goals. The process for their set up is planned within the EU funded project for Protection of the environment of international water basins.

National State Programs are aimed to ensure balanced and sustainable development of the country economy, improvement of social welfare of population; and also establishment of qualitatively new development model through achievement of organic correlation and mutual consistency between the current, middle and long term periods of social-economic development, acceleration of progress of the society in all directions hold the central position in the activities in Azerbaijan. Objective of the state water policy is to ensure safe and full habitat at meeting demands. For this objective an important principle is that neither the rights of other countries, nor of future generations for full environment should be offended.

In all programs special attention is paid for water policy issues and related health of population. While adopting National Programs, the experience of international organizations and tasks set by international Conventions have been taken into consideration. Based on the conditions of the country, by-laws have been developed.

FRANCE:

Le protocole Eau et santé est mis en oeuvre grâce à la directive européenne sur les eaux résiduaires urbaines et les politiques nationales.

GEORGIA:

Despite the fact that Georgia has not ratified the Protocol and is not a party to the Protocol the representatives of the Ministry regularly take active participation in the activities of the Working Group on Water and Health Protocol and Task Force on Targets Setting and Reporting, also participate in the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol.

SLOVAKIA:

SK as EU member implements most of key objectives of the Water Convention and protocol on Water and Health through implementation of the EU directives.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

ECO-TIRAS:

Some countries like Russia, Germany did not develop and establish the target dates despite it is their duties. Correspondingly they are out of the international Protocol implementation process. In some countries the implementation process is going relatively well (Moldova, Ukraine) and in some (Georgia) is in the process. Additional political efforts are necessary to improve the implementation process

3.2.8. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AZERBAIJAN:

At its second meeting (2-3 July 2009, Geneva) the Working Group on Water and Health decided to organize the first reporting exercise under the Protocol on Water and Health. All Protocol's Parties were required to take part in this first reporting cycle and provide information on their implementation of the Protocol. Signatories and other Member States of the UNECE/WHO-Europe were strongly encouraged to also participate in the exercise.

The deadline for submission of the reports by Parties and non-Parties was set as 31 March 2010. The reports received by the secretariat are posted on this web page (http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_implementation_reports.html).

The commencement of the second reporting cycle under the Protocol was announced during the fifth session of the Working Group on Water and

Health (11-12 October 2012, Geneva). In accordance with the established procedures, the deadline for submission of the reports was set as 29 April 2013. In addition to Parties to the Protocol, signatories and other Member States of the UNECE/WHO-Europe are also strongly encouraged participate in the exercise.

The summary reports should be completed in accordance with the guidelines and the template adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (23-25 November 2010, Bucharest).

All countries are encouraged to build on the lessons learned from the first pilot reporting exercise that was conducted in 2009-2010.

For timely and qualitative presentation of brief national report a consultative group was established in December 2012, which included authorised representatives of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Amelioration and Water Economy JSC, Azersu JSC, Ministry of Agriculture, representatives of relevant NGOs.

In the meeting of consultative group thematic sections of report were distributed in accordance with the specification of the organizations, which they represented.

GEORGIA:

Every three years the Ministry submits to the Secretariat the reports in accordance with the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health and its implementation in Georgia.

HUNGARY:

1st report submitted 10 May 2010

SLOVAKIA:

National Report on implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health is submitted to the Government regularly on a two-year basis.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

ECO-TIRAS:

the quality of the reports highly vary from country to country. Additional efforts are necessary both from the Compliance Committee and the Parties to improve the situation. Propose revision of the reporting form in the direction of higher clearness and simplicity.

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Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)	3.2.9. Status (more than one box can be ticked):
	<p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>The Convention “Transboundary effects of industrial accidents” Europe Economic Commission of UN was ratified by the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Republic, and on 4 May 2004 signed by the President of Azerbaijan Republic. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources was appointed as a competent body according to the Convention “The transboundary effects of industrial accidents” with the Order of President of Azerbaijan Republic No. 729 dated 1 April, 2005.</p> <p>The sustainable measures were taken in accordance with the fulfillment of liabilities arising with the requirements of the Convention “The transboundary effects of industrial accidents” of UN Europe Economic Commission.</p> <p>The system of registration of dangerous activities in the country, warnings and transferring about industry accidents across the country was created in order to carry out article 10 of the Convention.</p> <p>The communication center working constantly was established for warning industrial accidents and mutual assistance in Azerbaijan Republic according to the requirements of Article 17 of the Convention.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria signed the Convention on 18 March 1992 in Helsinki. The Bulgarian Parliament ratified it in 1995.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>La France a signé la convention en 1992 et l'a ratifiée en 2003.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>UNECE Fact Finding Mission visited Georgia in 2006. Since that Georgia was actively involved in the process development of the Assistance Programme to enhance the capacities of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in implementing the Convention. Representative of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia (MoERP) was actively involved in many of working groups under the convention and Georgia was represented in the Bureau of the CoP in the last six years. Georgia moved to the implementation phase of the Assistance Program. The official translation of the Industrial Accidents Convention text into Georgian language has been done by the responsible body under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p>

Greece ratified the Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents in 1997 (Law 2546/1997, OJG 256/A/16-12-97).

HUNGARY:

approved 2 June 1994

KYRGYZSTAN:

Вопрос ратификации данного Протокола в процессе рассмотрения.

POLAND:

Poland signed the Convention on 18 March 1992 and ratified it on 8 September 2003. The document was published in the Official Journal in 2004 (No. 129, item 1352).

ROMANIA:

Romania acceded to the Helsinki Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in 2003 via Law No. 92 and participates actively in its implementation.

SLOVAKIA:

The accession to the Convention was approved by the Parliament on 19 June 2003 and entered into force for the Slovak Republic on 9 September 2003.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has ratified the convention in 1999

UKRAINE:

При рассмотрении положительных и отрицательных последствий ратификации Конвенции сделан вывод о целесообразности ее ратификации, однако не приведено достаточно убедительных финансово-экономических обоснований этого вопроса.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have agreements with the countries with which we share borders. We also have strong liability laws domestically. While we signed the Convention when it was agreed, we have not moved to ratify the convention and do not actively participate in its work. We do not foresee a change in that situation.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.10. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

Transposition into Austria law by the acts Federal Law Gaz. I No. 88/2000 and No. 90/2000. See also:

http://www.lebensministerium.at/umwelt/betriebl_umweltschutz_uvp/umweltschutzanlagen/Seveso_HelsinkiKonv.html

AZERBAIJAN:

Ministry of Emergency Situations was established in December 16, 2005 with the Order of the President of Azerbaijan Republic and Crisis Management Center operates in its structure. Crisis Management Center is a governing body being established in order to manage power and methods in preventing of emergency situations and the elimination of results.

The center operates in the field of the collection of information entered from various sources, generalization, analysis and relevant decision-making. The data enter and are analyzed from all parts of the country by means of modern communication center being created here (telephone, fax, satellite communication, internet), as well as a free ""112"" telephone service.

The center has been included to the system IAN of the Convention and has been registered. Also test trials entered from the Secretariat of the Convention and Parties are received and answered in this center.

Natural and technogenic events took place in the country and around the world, their results, following of the information about the works related to eliminate the results of the same events are analyzed.

The special attention paid to the prediction of natural and technogenic emergency events, preventing and transboundary partnership in the effective fight with them. Interchange of scientific and technical information, preparation of joint projects, interchange of experience, the preparation of strategies and methods, the mutual organization of training courses, seminars, and symposium, defining the help procedure during the natural and technogenic emergency events which may occur in any of the parties are found out in this partnership.

Now, the measures are improved according to the risk assessment of industrial accidents, elimination of results of accidents, defining of dangerous activities and the important and sustainable measures are continued in order to reduce potential risks, limit the results and protect people and environment.

BULGARIA:

The provisions of the Convention are transposed in the Environment Protection Act and the Regulation on prevention of major accidents with hazardous substances and mitigation their consequences.

Instruments for implementation are permits under Article 104 of the Environment Protection Act, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water; control on the enterprises under Article 157a of the Environment Protection Act; documentation in accordance with the Regulation, prepared by the enterprises.

FRANCE:

La convention est mise en oeuvre grâce à la directive européenne SEVESO.

GEORGIA:

During the last reorganization process of the MoERP was established a new unit – Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards Management Service. One of the responsibilities to this unit is to work on the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention. In this regard the bilateral meeting (22 May, 2013) was held in Geneva between the high level officials of MoENRP and EMD of Georgia and UNECE. It was agreed that Self Assessment of the Convention Implementation will be done in the next six month and technical expert assistance will be provided by the Secretariat of the Convention to Georgia. Those actions will be followed with the elaboration of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention and build the capacities at national level before the ratification of the convention.

GREECE:

The Greek policy and activities in the field of prevention of, preparedness for, and response to industrial accidents are mainly based on the provisions of the Seveso EU Directive, which has been incorporated in the national legislative framework through the joint Ministerial Decision 12044/613/19-3-07, OJG 376/B/19-3-07).

ROMANIA:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania have been designated as competent authorities responsible for implementing the Convention and coordinating the activities of competent authorities at local level such as local agencies and guards. The same authorities responsible for implementing the Convention are involved in the enforcement of Council Directive 96/82/EC (SEVESO II) on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances as established by Governmental Decision No. 04 of 2007. The SEVESO II Directive, which covers the issues

foreseen in the Convention, enables Romania to respect all Convention obligations relating to identification and notification of dangerous activities, implementation of prevention strategy and policies, emergency preparedness and response as well as information and involvement of the public. At local level, the fulfillment of the Convention requirements is assured by the prefect responsible for coordinating interventions in the event of major accidents with transboundary effects. Implementation

SLOVAKIA:

The Convention is exercised as an integral component of the Slovak legislation. The Ministry of Environment as competent authority and the Ministry of Interior as point of contact were designated by the Slovak government.

SWITZERLAND:

Swiss comments: implementation too must remain an ongoing process which is never completely achieved, otherwise a country will likely fall back

3.2.11. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AZERBAIJAN:

According to the requirements of the Convention report on industrial accidents in country is submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention every two years by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

BELARUS:

За конвенцию отвечает МЧС.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria submitted reports for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th reporting periods

FRANCE:

La convention exige la présentation d'un rapport tous les 2 ans sur sa mise en oeuvre. La France a présenté un rapport en 2011 qui a été examiné avec les rapports des autres États membres lors de la dernière conférence des parties à Stockholm.

	<p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>The Convention Implementation Reports were submitted to the secretariat of Industrial Accident convention regularly during the last ten years and Georgia was presented in the Bureau of CoP. Only last implementation report was not submitted in 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Since the access of the Slovak Republic to the Convention were the national implementation reports elaborated and delivered always on time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
Protocol on Civil Liability	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #C8E6C9;">3.2.12. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>Intergovernmental procedures have not been commenced yet for ratification of Protocol on Civil Liability of the “Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>The Protocol on Civil Liability was signed by Georgia at the Environment Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2003.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>The Protocol on Civil Liability was signed in 2003 in Kiev.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>signed 21 May 2003, ratified (as single country) 25 June 2004</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NETHERLANDS:</p> <p>The Netherlands did not sign the Protocol on Civil Liability</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>The Slovak Republic will proceed back-to-back with the European Union.</p>

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.13. Implementation:

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria signed the Protocol on Civil Liability on 21 May 2003 in Kiev. It is not ratified. Since this Protocol has only 24 Signatories and 1 Party, it is obvious that this is not working instrument.

GEORGIA:

The national legislation consists some of the regulations of the civil liability of the industry operators, but it does not allow full implementation of the Protocol.

GREECE:

The Civil Liability Protocol has not been ratified, however, Greece is implementing related provisions through the implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) 35/2004 (Presidential Decree 148/2009) for the prevention and remediation of environmental damages, based on the "polluter-pays" principle.

As regards transboundary environmental damage that occurs either in the Greek territory and affects other EU Member States, or in other EU Member States' territory and is identified or its repercussions affect the Greek territory, the above-mentioned Presidential Decree provides for a mechanism of cooperation between the competent authorities of EU Member States, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the effective exchange of information and for decision making on the appropriate remediation measures and the recovery of the restoration cost by the responsible operator.

UKRAINE:

Вопрос о ратификации Протокола о гражданской ответственности целесообразно рассматривать после принятия решения о ратификации Конвенции промышленных авариях.

	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
<p>Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3.2.14. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>Austria ratified the Espoo Convention on 27 July 1994.</p> <p>Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan has ratified the Convention on 25th March, 1999. Accession and approval is at the same date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELARUS:</p> <p>Подписана 26 февраля 1991 года. Принята Указом Президента Республики Беларусь «Аб прыняцці Рэспублікай Беларусь Канвенцыі аб ацэнцы ўздзеяння на навакольнае асяроддзе ў трансгранічным кантэксце» 20 октября 2005 года.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria signed the Convention on 21 February 1991 in Espoo and ratified it in 1995.</p> <p>The two amendments were ratified in 2007</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>La France a signé la convention le 26 février 1991.</p> <p>La France a ratifié la convention le 15 juin 2001.</p> <p>La France a ratifié le deuxième amendement à la Convention le 22 novembre 2011 ; elle n'a pas encore ratifié le premier amendement. Une évaluation des conséquences légales de cette ratification est en cours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>Currently, as a pre-condition for Georgia to join the Espoo Convention, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia works to improve its national legislation on Environmental Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Under the second component of the EaP GREEN Programme, UNECE identified a project for Georgia mainly related to revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework and capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures, following good practices in use in the EU. The project will establish a group of experts comprised by national and international experts, who with involvement of public will produce</p>

recommendations in order to identify gaps in national legislation and harmonize it with European legislation on EIA.

GREECE:

The ESPOO Convention was signed in 1991 and ratified in 1997 (Law 2540/1997, OJG 249/A/15-12-97). Greece is currently in the process of ratifying the two amendments of the ESPOO Convention.

HUNGARY:

signed 26 Feb 1991, ratified 11 Jul 1997 (1st and 2nd amendments approved 29 May 2009)

POLAND:

Poland ratified the Espoo Convention on 12 June 1997. Since that time it was successfully implemented into national law and used in practice many times.

ROMANIA:

Romania ratified the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in 2001 through Law No. 22 of 2001. This general legal framework is strengthened by the provisions of Emergency Governance Ordinance (EGO) No. 195 of 2005 on Environmental Protection, as approved and amended by Law No. 265 of 2006, later amended by EGO No. 164 of 2008, currently being considered as a draft bill in Parliament.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has ratified the convention in 1996, the 1st amendment in 2010 and the 2nd amendment in 2013.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have robust environmental assessment laws domestically. The U.S. signed the Convention when it was drafted but we have not moved to ratify it and do not actively participate in its meetings or implementation beyond the enforcement of domestic laws many of which served as a basis for the drafting of the Convention.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.15. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

Implementation in the Austrian EIA Act 2000 (Federal Law Gazette I No. 697/1993 as amended, last amendment by Federal Law Gazette I No. 95/2013), in particular section 10.

AZERBAIJAN:

The Implementation process started legally due to the NEW DRAFT LAW ON EIA in Azerbaijan, which is considered to include stems of Espoo Convention in this Law also. Further it is intended to adopt the normative legal acts on the Provisions of Espoo Convention step by step for full compliance with the Convention.

BELARUS:

В целях осуществления положений Конвенции Эспо приняты:

Закон Республики Беларусь от 9 ноября 2009 года №54-З «О государственной экологической экспертизе», в редакции Закона Республики Беларусь от 14 июля 2011 года №293-З (далее – Закон);

Положение о порядке проведения оценки воздействия на окружающую среду, утверждено постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 19 мая 2010 года №755; в редакции постановлений Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 1 июня 2011 года №689 и от 13 октября 2011 года №1370;

Положение о порядке проведения государственной экологической экспертизы, утверждено постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 19 мая 2010 года №755; в редакции постановлений Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 1 июня 2011 года №689 и от 13 октября 2011 года №1370;

Положение о порядке обсуждения вопросов в области использования атомной энергии с участием общественных объединений, иных организаций и граждан, утверждено постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 4 июня 2009 года №571; утратило силу с 9 июня 2011 года;

Положение о порядке проведения общественной экологической экспертизы, утверждено постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 29 октября 2010 года №1592; в редакции постановления Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 13 октября 2011 года №1370;

Технический кодекс установившейся практики 17.02-08-2012 «Охраны окружающей среды и природопользование. Правила проведения оценки воздействия на окружающую среду (ОВОС) и подготовки отчета».

В соответствии с положениями Конвенции Эспо Республики Беларусь проводит трансграничные процедуры ОВОС в отношении всех объектов, предусмотренных Конвенцией Эспо, которые планируются к строительству на ее территории, а также принимает участие в трансграничных процедурах ОВОС в отношении видов деятельности, планируемых на территории соседних государств.

BULGARIA:

The provisions of the Convention are fully transposed in Bulgarian legislation. It is implemented through the Environmental Protection Act and the EIA Ordinance.

Bulgaria is also Party to the Multilateral Agreement among the countries of South-East Europe for implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Bulgaria has a long lasting well established experience in the EIA in a transboundary context, especially with Romania.

FRANCE:

La France, qui est un des premiers pays au monde à avoir introduit l'obligation de réaliser une étude d'impact sur l'environnement de certains projets préalablement à leur autorisation, disposait d'un système d'évaluation environnementale lors de sa signature de la convention. Elle a introduit des dispositions relatives à la procédure transfrontière, suite à la ratification en 2001, par le décret 2003-767 du 1er août 2003.

GREECE:

Greece has repeatedly exchanged notifications letters with Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and FYROM, during the last three years, in the framework of this Convention.

POLAND:

Polish national law is in full compliance with provisions of the Espoo Convention. What is more, Poland is a Party of two bilateral agreements, Polish-German as well as Polish-Lithuanian, on specific issues related to the implementation of the Espoo Convention between these countries. Moreover, at this time we are preparing further bilateral agreements with Germany, Slovakia and Belarus devoted to the implementation of the Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol. Moreover, both amendments to the Espoo Convention were ratified by Poland (1st amendment on 20 July 2004 and 2nd amendment on 11 January 2012).

ROMANIA:

In order to fully transpose the EIA Directives, the Romanian environmental authorities issued GD No. 445 of 2009 on Environmental Impact Assessment for Certain Public and Private Projects, establishing

the framework procedure for environmental impact assessment (EIA) and approving the list of private or public projects to which the procedure must be applied. The competent authority in charge of the transboundary EIA procedure set out in the Convention is MoE. In case an application to a local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a project likely to have a significant transboundary environmental impact is submitted, the EPA is obliged to inform MoEF, which notifies the potentially affected Parties according to the procedure established by the Espoo Convention. Romanian legislation foresees an adequate involvement and proper information of the public in the transboundary EIA procedures through access to all relevant documentation produced.

SLOVAKIA:

Espoo Convention was correctly transposed to national legislation by the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2006 Coll. as amended. There is bilateral agreement signed between the Slovak Republic and Austria to simplify and clarify the transboundary impact assessment procedure under the Espoo Convention. For the same reason bilateral agreement between the Slovak Republic and Poland is under preparation with a view to be signed at the end of 2013. Information database system for transboundary impact assessment procedures with Austria is also under preparation.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has already implemented the convention for about 25 activities (party of origin / affected party).

CAREC:

CAREC supports the Espoo Convention via promoting of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Impact Assessment (SIA) in CA states since 2007. These activities built a basis for application of EIA and SIA. Formal reporting (national implementation reports)

3.2.16. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AUSTRIA:

The reporting is based on the decisions in the context of the Espoo Convention.

AZERBAIJAN:

Azerbaijan submitted National Implementation Reports on the Questionnaires on EIA for the intended period (2006-2009 and 2010-2012).

BELARUS:

Национальные доклады об осуществлении представлялись за отчетные периоды 2006-2009 и 2010-2012.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria submitted completed questionnaires for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th review periods, thus fulfilling all reporting commitments.

FRANCE:

En tant que Partie à la Convention, la France remplit son obligation de rapportage tous les 3 ans au Secrétariat de la Convention.

Le dernier rapport a été transmis au Secrétariat pendant la période prévue.

GREECE:

Greece is regularly submitting formal reports for the Convention and is currently in the process of preparation of the 3rd report.

POLAND:

National reporting on implementation takes place every three years. Poland submits its reports to the Secretary of the Espoo Convention very regularly. The last report for the period of 2010-2012 was submitted on 25 April 2013 and is available at: <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/environmental-impact-assessment/areas-of-work/enveiimplementationreview-implementation/review-of-implementation-2013.html>

SLOVAKIA:

Last report was done in May 2013 filling the questioner “Report of Slovakia on the implementation of the Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in period 2010 – 2012”.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has reports on the implementation of the convention for the following periods: to mid-2003, 2003-2005, 2006-2009 and 2010-2012

	<hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
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<p>Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)</p>	<p>3.2.17. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>The Protocol was ratified on 23 March 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>It will be reviewed after setting up the legal base of SEA process at national level, thus, we have not established the implementation mechanisms of national SEA process in legislation yet. After that there will be direct positions regarding the status of SEA Protocol in Azerbaijan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Protocol was signed on 21 May 2003 in Kiev and was ratified in 2006.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>La France a signé le Protocole à la Convention Espoo relative à l'évaluation environnementale stratégique à Kiev le 21 mai 2003. La procédure de ratification est en cours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>Protocol on SEA was signed by Georgia on 21 May, 2003.</p> <p>Within the frame of the EaP GREEN Programme, the relevant recommendations will be prepared in order to promote the use of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as an essential planning tool for an environmentally sustainable economic development in Georgia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>The Convention was ratified in 2005 (Law 3422/12-12-2005, OJG 303/A/2005).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>signed 21 May 2003, approved 26 Nov 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>Poland ratified the SEA Protocol on 21 June 2011 and its provisions are fully reflected in the national law.</p>

ROMANIA:

The legal provisions for strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) are set out in the 2004 GD on the Establishment of the Procedure for Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes, No. 1076. The GD transposes the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC). It subjects certain public plans and programmes (PPs) to environmental assessment prior to adoption.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has the aim to introduce an impact assessment which combines sustainability assessment with SEA. The ratification of the protocol by Switzerland would be possible after entered in force of this instrument (IA).

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.18. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

Implementation in several existing Acts or into newly established Acts both at federal and provincial level.

BULGARIA:

The provisions of the Protocol are transposed in the Environmental Protection Act and the Regulation on the conditions and procedures for environmental assessment for plans and programmes.

FRANCE:

La majorité des dispositions du Protocole de Kiev figurant dans la directive 2001/42/UE relative à l'évaluation environnementale stratégique, qui s'impose aux États membres de l'Union européenne depuis 2004, date de fin du délai de transposition. Les quelques différences entre les deux textes ont été prises en compte dans la loi portant « Engagement national pour l'Environnement » signée le 12 juillet 2010, comme par exemple l'ajout de la problématique de la santé humaine.

GREECE:

The implementation of the Convention constitutes an important step forward in the efforts of the international community to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations, since the setting of time frames, practical implementation measures and the possibility for Governments to work together with civil society provide the foundations for effective environmental protection (for more information on implementation see section (e) below).

POLAND:

Polish national law is in full compliance with the SEA Protocol. For the time being we are preparing two bilateral agreements on SEA with Germany and Slovakia.

ROMANIA:

The competent environmental authorities for SEA are regional and local EPAs, for local and county level PPs and the central environmental authority (MoECC), for national and regional scale PPs. The administrative act issued by the competent authority confirming the integration of environmental aspects into the PP under examination is called an “environmental consent”.

The “screening” model used by Romania is based on a combined approach, whereby the list of PPs to be assessed is supplemented by a case-by-case approach to determine whether an assessment is needed, based on a list of (rather general) criteria. The screening is made through a consultation process involving - besides the competent environmental authority and the PP proponent – the public health authorities as well as other stakeholder institutions, within the framework of an ad-hoc committee, set by MoEF or the regional EPA.

The scope and the level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report (the “scoping”) is based on a broad/framework set of parameters. The environmental report identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects of the PP on the environment and reasonable alternatives, taking into account its objectives and geographical scope.

SLOVAKIA:

The above- mentioned bilateral agreement between the Slovak Republic and Poland also contains the issue of SEA protocol.

3.2.19. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AUSTRIA:

The reporting is based on the decisions in the context of the SEA Protocol.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria submitted the completed questionnaire for the 1st review period.

FRANCE:

L'obligation de rapportage au Secrétariat du Protocole ne s'applique qu'aux Parties au Protocole, et non pas aux Signataires.

GREECE:

Greece is regularly submitting its national reports to the Aarhus Convention and is currently in the process of elaborating the new national implementation report (for 2013).

POLAND:

Due to the fact that the SEA Protocol entered into force in 2010 the first national reporting on implementation takes place in 2013. Polish national report is under preparation and will be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest by 28 of June 2013 (as it was agreed on the 2nd Working Group on EIA/SEA 27-30 May 2013).

ROMANIA:

The SEA Directive and the EIA Directive, which have both been transposed into Romanian environmental law, are to a large extent complementary: the SEA is "upstream" and identifies the best options at an early planning stage, whereas the EIA is "downstream" and refers to the projects that are coming through at a later stage.

SLOVAKIA:

The first report was done recently, i.e. in June 2013.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

<p>Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)</p>	<p>3.2.20. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>Aarhus Convention is ratified:</p> <p>The practice of participation of civil society in the decision-making process related to environmental matters is improved. The legal basis of it can be considered adopted by Azerbaijan Republic in 1999 “Access to information on environmental matters, public participation in decision-making and holding justice court” Aarhus Convention was ratified and in this direction done significant works in our country.</p> <p>Thus, there were done serious reforms in the legislation, including “Access to information on environmental matters”, “Access to information”, “Environmental education and awareness of the population”, “Administrative Proceedings”, “Non-governmental organizations (public unions and funds)”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELARUS:</p> <p>Орхусская конвенция подписана Республикой Беларусь 28 июня 1998 года в г. Орхус, Дания, утверждена Указом Президента Республики Беларусь от 14 декабря 1999 года «Об утверждении Конвенции о доступе к информации, участии общественности в процессе принятия решений и доступе к правосудию по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды», вступила в силу 30 октября 2001 года.Implementation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>The Republic of Bulgaria has signed the Convention on 25 June 1998 in Aarhus at the 4th Ministerial conference “environment for Europe”. It was ratified by the Bulgarian Parliament on 2 October 2003. In force for Bulgaria since 16 March 2004.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>La France a signé la convention en 1998 et la convention a été ratifiée en 2002.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>The Aarhus Convention was ratified in 2000 and entered into force in 2001.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>The Convention was ratified in 2005 (Law 3422/12-12-2005, OJG</p>

303/A/2005).

HUNGARY:

signed 18 Dec 1998, ratified 3 Jul 2001 (amendment ratified 16 May 2008)

ISRAEL:

While Israel is not a Party to the Convention, it acceded the PRTR Protocol on January 14, 2013 (Accession has the same legal effect as ratification, but is not preceded by a signature).

KAZAKHSTAN:

Орхусская конвенция ратифицирована в Казахстане Законом Республики Казахстан от 23 октября 2000г. N 92-III «О ратификации Конвенции о доступе к информации, участию общественности в процессе принятия решений и доступе к правосудию по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды.

POLAND:

Poland signed the Convention on 25 June 1998 and ratified it on 15 February 2002. The GMO Amendment was ratified by the Act from 23 October 2008.

ROMANIA:

The provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters have had a direct effect on national legislation since its entry in force in Romania in 2000. It should be underlined that the transposition of EU legislation such as Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information and Directive 2003/35/EC providing for public participation in respect of the drawing-up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment also facilitates the implementation of this Convention. Public participation in the elaboration of regulations is ensured in accordance with Law No. 52 of 2003 on Transparency in Decisions of the Public Administration. Drafts of normative acts, regulatory acts and decisions are published on the authorities' websites, ensuring active public participation.

SLOVAKIA:

In Slovakia the Aarhus Convention entered into force on 5 March 2006.

The Aarhus Convention became part of the national legal system by having been published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 43/2006.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland stays in the process of ratification. If the Swiss parliament takes a positive decision, Switzerland could join the convention in 2014.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. was the author and promoter of Rio Principle 10 at the UNCED Conference in 1992. We are strongly committed to the ideas of Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matter. However because of the specific obligations and provisions of the are not compatible with existing US laws and are in fact with the provisions of the U.S. Constitution, especially regarding the authorities and responsibilities of the Federal and State Governments.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.21. Implementation:

AZERBAIJAN:

Azerbaijan Republic implements the political course to European Integration, carrying out useful and purposeful measures in “environmental” matters according to European Union legislation. In 2009 during the referendum there were made amendments and appendixes in the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic including 39 items (to live in healthy environment) “Everybody has a right to access to information on environmental matters and have the right to compensation for damage to health and property”.

BELARUS:

Внесены изменения и дополнения в национальное законодательство с целью его более полного соответствия положениям Орхусской конвенции. Указанные изменения и дополнения коснулись, прежде всего, доступа к экологической информации, участия общественности в процессе принятия экологически значимых решений. В настоящее время разрабатывается законопроект и проект постановления Совета Министров Республики Беларусь, посредством принятия которых планируется усилить имплементацию положений Орхусской конвенции, имеющих отношение к участию общественности в решении вопросов, касающихся планов, программ и политики, связанных с окружающей средой, а также в подготовке нормативных положений, принятие

которых способно оказать воздействие на окружающую среду.

В республике расширяется практика правоприменения положений Орхусской конвенции и соответствующих норм национального законодательства. Министерством природных ресурсов и охраны окружающей среды Республики Беларусь проводится значительная работа по информированию государственных органов об их обязанностях и общественности о ее правах в соответствии с Орхусской конвенцией. Проводятся мероприятия по повышению квалификации и переподготовке кадров в этой сфере.

В целях содействия выполнению положений Орхусской конвенции созданы и функционируют Орхусские центры (один республиканский в г. Минске и один региональный в г. Гродно).

Поддерживается постоянная взаимосвязь с руководящими органами Орхусской конвенции.

В рамках временной системы добровольных взносов, которая была создана в соответствии с решениями I/3, II/6 и III/11 Совещания Сторон Орхусской конвенции и основывается на системе долевого участия, Республикой Беларусь постоянно уплачивались добровольные взносы.

BULGARIA:

The Convention is effectively implemented in Bulgaria, which contributes to the development of civil society, leads to greater transparency in decision-making at national and local level, and to fuller taking into account of environmental considerations in the development and implementation of sector policies, strategies, action plans, programmes and projects.

The ratification of the convention contributed to legislative and institutional measures to ensure effective access to information and public participation in decision making in environmental matters. All provisions of the Convention are transposed in the national legislation. Among the basin legislative acts are the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Access to Public Information Act, the Administrative Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Code.

The administrative and institutional capacity to implement the Convention is also in place. The Ministry of Environment and Water and its territorial structures have information centres where every citizen can obtain information on the environment. "One stop shop" is introduced for administrative services, including for applications for access to environmental information. Public hearings are held (by publishing draft legislative and policy documents, workshops, round tables, etc..) and information campaigns, etc

FRANCE:

La convention d'Aarhus est mise en oeuvre grâce à la transposition de deux directives européennes et à la réglementation nationale.

GREECE:

The implementation of the Convention constitutes an important step forward in the efforts of the international community to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations, since the setting of time frames, practical implementation measures and the possibility for Governments to work together with civil society provide the foundations for effective environmental protection (for more information on implementation see section (e) below).

KAZAKHSTAN:

Исполнительным органом по реализации Орхусской конвенции определено Министерство охраны окружающей среды РК.

Создан Национальный и 9 региональных орхусских центров.

Вопросы реализации Орхусской конвенции включены в Экологический кодекс РК глава 21 - Экологическая информация. Отраслевую программу «Жасыл даму» на 2010-2014 годы, раздел 4, пункт 197, Стратегический план МООС РК на 2011-2015 годы пункт 101-1, Операционный план МООС пункт 16.

Основными приоритетными направлениями реализации Орхусской конвенции являются:

- ведение Государственного фонда экологической информации;
- обеспечение доступа к информации;
- государственная услуга: «Предоставление экологической информации»;
- участие общественности в процессе принятия решений;
- доступ к правосудию по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды;
- создание Регистра выбросов и переноса загрязнителей;
- поддержка Орхусских центров Республики Казахстан.

Обеспечен широкий доступ общественности к экологической информации на веб-сайтах МООС РК www.eco.gov.kz, Орхусского центра www.aarhus.kz, включая разделы «Государственного фонда экологической информации» (<http://aarhus.kz/index.php?>), «ЭкоИнфоПраво» www.ecoinfo.iacoos.kz, ИАЦ ООС www.iacoos.kz, Программы Партнерства «Зеленый мост» www.greenbridgepartnership.net, на веб-портале Государственных кадастров природных ресурсов РК www.ecokadastr.kz.

Проводятся на курсы повышения квалификации в области охраны окружающей среды, правоприменения, энергоэффективности, «Зеленой» экономики, Международных стандартов, Экологической экспертизы, Экологического аудита прошли обучение представители НПО и СМИ (91 слушатель), проведено обсуждение вопросов

	<p>экологической культуры в промышленности и СМИ.</p> <p>Организована национальная подготовительная конференция высокого уровня к 21-му экономико-экологическому форуму ОБСЕ ""Повышение стабильности и безопасности: "" и праздновании 15-летней годовщины принятия Орхусской конвенции (25-26 июня 2013 г.) на которой представлен на обсуждение общественности проект концепции по изменению законодательства по вопросам Орхусской конвенции.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KYRGYZSTAN:</p> <p>Существующее законодательство Кыргызской Республики дает общественности право на получение информации, в том числе экологической, на доступ общественности к принятию решений и правосудию.</p> <p>Вопросы доступа к информации, участия общественности в принятии решений и доступа к правосудию прописаны в Конституции КР, Законах КР «О гарантиях и свободе доступа к информации», «Об охране окружающей среды», «О СМИ», «О защите государственных секретов», «О профессиональной деятельности журналиста», «О рекламе», «Об информатизации», «Об электрической и почтовой связи», «О лицензировании», «О системе научно-технической информации», «Об авторских и смежных правах», «Об экологической экспертизе», «О местном самоуправлении и местной государственной администрации», «О градостроительстве и архитектуре», «О защите прав потребителей», «О государственной службе», «Об этике государственных служащих», «Об энергетике», «О некоммерческих организациях», «О Правительстве КР», «О нормативных правовых актах», «О санитарно-эпидемиологическом благополучии», «О статусе Кыргызской Республики», «Об основных принципах бюджетного права», «Об основах государственной молодежной политики», «О науке и об основах государственной научно-технической политики», «О культуре», «О свободе вероисповедания и религиозных организациях», «Об особо охраняемых природных территориях», «Об охране здоровья народа в Республике Кыргызстан», «О стандартизации», «Об обеспечении единства измерений», «Об акционерных обществах», «О порядке рассмотрения предложений, заявлений и жалоб граждан», Кодексах - Налоговом, Земельном, Уголовном, Гражданском, Уголовно-процессуальном, Гражданском процессуальном, Об административной ответственности и др. В этих и других Законодательных актах как отраслевых, так и общего направления, имеется законодательное закрепление, но необходима разработка отдельных процедур и механизмов их реализации с учетом положений Конвенции.</p> <p>С 2006г. по 2008г. принят ряд НПА касающихся вопросов доступа к информации, участия общественности в принятии решений и доступа к правосудию: Конституция Кыргызской Республики в редакции от 15 января 2007г, Законы КР: «О доступе к информации, находящейся в ведении государственных органов и органов местного самоуправления Кыргызской Республики» (14.11.06), «О</p>
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порядке рассмотрения обращений граждан» (23.03.07), «О государственном регулировании и политике в области эмиссии и поглощения парниковых газов» (23.03.07), «О государственной статистике» (2.02.07), «Об охране озонового слоя» (19.10.06), «О национальной телерадиовещательной корпорации» (8.06.06), Указ Президента КР «О мерах по расширению, нормативному закреплению и внедрению в практику форм взаимодействия государственных органов, органов местного самоуправления и гражданского общества в Кыргызской Республике» (11.05.06 №241), Постановление ПКР № 603 от 20.12.07 «О методике анализа регулятивного воздействия нормативных правовых актов на деятельность субъектов предпринимательства», Государственная стратегия по борьбе с коррупцией 2006-2007гг., Стратегия Развития Страны на 2007-2010гг и новая редакция Стратегии развития страны на 2009-2011гг. и др.

Основным гарантом право на доступ к информации является Конституция Кыргызской Республики, которая гарантирует свободу слова и выражения, устанавливая, что каждый гражданин страны имеет право «на свободное выражение и распространение мыслей, идей и мнений, па свободу литературного, художественного, научного и технического творчества, свободу печати, передачи и распространения информации». «Культура, искусство, литература, наука и средства массовой информации свободны». Положение о свободе слова и средств информации усиливается дополнением к Конституции - «Не допускается принятие законов, ограничивающих свободу слова и печати».

POLAND:

At the first place it need to be mentioned that PL as a Member State of the European Union is bound by the provisions of the EU directive on access to environmental information and directive on environmental impact assessment – basic tool of public participation in decision making in environmental matters. The basic legal act regulating the issues of access to environmental information and the environmental impact assessment in PL law is the Act of 3 October 2008 of facilitating the access to information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and the environmental impact assessments. Convention is also implemented by number of other, more general acts. Just to mention the Code of Administrative Procedure or Law of Environmental Protection which are in particular establishing rules for individuals who are seeking for access to justice in administrative cases and defining the role of environmental organisations in administrative cases.

ROMANIA:

Since 2001, additional secondary legislation has been developed to ensure proper implementation of Convention provisions. EGO No. 195 of 2005 on Environmental Protection, as approved by Law No. 265 of 2006, provides for relevant principles, such as access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making

processes, and access to justice. Based on the provisions of the same Law, the local and central public authorities ensure that the public is informed and participates in the decision-making process, in compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

SLOVAKIA:

With regard to the fact that the Aarhus Convention provisions cannot be directly applicable, the Convention is applied through the following national law:

Article 45 of the Slovak Republic Constitution (“Everybody has a right to early and complete information on the environment state, and on reasons and consequences of such a state”)

and § 3 paragraph 1 of the Act No. 211/2002 on free access to information (“Everybody has a right to access to information available at the obliged persons”) are the fundamental constitutional rights related also to the right to free uncensored expression of opinions;

the Act No. 17/1992 on Environment

the Act No. 205/2004 on collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information

The legal regulation system is described in the individual articles of the first and the second national implementation reports. The latest legal status will be presented in the third national implementation report, which is just under the process of preparation.

SWITZERLAND:

Swiss legislation is in principle in conformity with the provisions of the Aarhus-Convention. There are a few issues to be amended in order to establish full conformity. This amendments of the national legislation will be together with the decision on accession to the convention.

CAREC:

CAREC has strong information, awareness and education components in all its activities, thus contributing to the spirit of the Aarhus Convention.

In order to assist countries to comply with the Aarhus Convention (1998) and to improve the quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information CAREC is promoting the concept of Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), in order to streamline the process of collection, exchange and usage of environmental information. CAREC continues to establish networks of experts, thus creating SEIS working groups and identifying main challenges and opportunities for the development of the systems for evidence based environmental reports.

3.2.22. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

BELARUS:

Республика Беларусь предоставляла национальные доклады о выполнении Орхусской конвенции в рамках всех циклов отчетности. Подготовка указанных выше докладов проводилась с участием общественности.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria submitted implementation reports for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of the Parties, thus fulfilling all reporting commitments.

FRANCE:

Le rapport national de mise en oeuvre est présenté tous les trois ans. Le dernier a été transmis en 2011.

GEORGIA:

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia started preparation of the 4th National Report in May 2013.

GREECE:

Greece is regularly submitting its national reports to the Aarhus Convention and is currently in the process of elaborating the new national implementation report (for 2013).

HUNGARY:

latest report submitted 29 March 2013

KAZAKHSTAN:

Национальные доклады об осуществлении Орхусской конвенции подготовлены и представлены в секретариат Орхусской конвенции в установленные сроки. Информация для Нац докладов представлена Министерством Юстиции РК, Минздравом РК, Минсельхозом РК, Министерством культуры и информации РК, Министерством по чрезвычайным ситуациям РК, Министерством образования и науки РК, Верховным Судом РК, Региональным экологическим центром Центральной Азии (РЭЦ ЦА), Форумом Экологических НПО Казахстана и другими заинтересованными сторонами.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В 2004 году Кыргызская Республика была выбрана в качестве одной

из трех пилотных стран для программы Учебного и научно-исследовательского института ООН (ЮНИТАР) и Европейской экономической комиссии ООН (ЕЭКООН) по оказанию помощи странам в подготовке Национального Профиля по оценке способностей страны по осуществлению Орхусской Конвенции. Национальный Профиль был подготовлен с привлечением широкого круга заинтересованных сторон.

В 2007 году подготовлен второй национальный доклад о реализации Орхусской конвенции для представления совещанию Конференции Сторон Конвенции.

В 2010 году, при поддержке Экологической программы ПРООН с привлечением экспертов ООН ""Независимая экологическая экспертиза"" и активного участия экологических НПО и общественности, подготовлен третий Национальный доклад по осуществлению Орхусской Конвенции.

POLAND:

Poland is preparing national implementation reports regularly since the first reporting cycle. The latest report was prepared in 2011 and it is available on the UNECE website: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2011.html

SLOVAKIA:

The first national report on the Aarhus Convention implementation (NIR I) was submitted to the Aarhus Convention Secretariat in 2008, the second national implementation report (NIR II) in 2011 and the third national report (NIR III) is just in the process of preparation.

The reports have been prepared by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, as the responsible and competent subject for the Aarhus Convention, in cooperation with special branch organizations, environmental regional offices, state administration central bodies, and non-governmental organizations that provided updated documentation from the point of view of their competences. The relevant comments were incorporated upon consultations with the entities addressed.

The national implementation reports represent a baseline material, completed by updated data upon documentation of concerned entities addressed. The cooperation with state administration central bodies, environmental regional offices, special environmental institutions, and non-governmental organizations is necessary to ensure successful fulfilment of the Aarhus Convention commitments and evaluation of its implementation progress.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

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Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs)	3.2.23. Status (more than one box can be ticked):
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>Austria ratified the PRTR Protocol on 23 March 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>United Nations Program on environment technology, industry and economics department at the initiative of the chemical department of chemical substances within the framework of the strategic plan for the management and distribution of contaminants in the discharge register has been developed for the creation of a pilot project. The government of Azerbaijan, which regulates various chemical substances and wastes Basel, Stockholm, Vienna Conventions, SAICM, away from the cross-border spread of pollutants in the atmosphere of the Convention, a framework conventions on climate change has certain obligations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELARUS:</p> <p>Вопрос о возможности присоединении Республики Беларусь к РВПЗ в настоящее время изучается. В рамках программ ЮНЕП выполняется международный проект по разработке Национального регистра выбросов и переноса загрязнителей.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria signed the PRTR Protocol on 21 May 2003 during the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Kiev, Ukraine. The PRTR Protocol was ratified in December 2009 and came into force in Bulgaria on 15 April 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>Greece signed the PRTR Protocol in Kiev, in 2003. Greece is planning to ratify the Protocol in the immediate future.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>signed 21 May 2003, ratified 13 Jul 2009...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>Israel has ratified the Protocol on PRTRs on 14 January 2013.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KAZAKHSTAN:</p> <p>Стратегическим планом МООС РК предусмотрено присоединение к</p>

Протоколу о регистрах выбросов и переноса загрязнителей к Орхусской конвенции. В настоящее время предложения о присоединении к Протоколу РВПЗ направлены и согласованы всеми заинтересованными госорганами, осуществляется технический перевод на государственный язык, подготовлен проект постановления о ратификации.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Вопрос ратификации данного Протокола в стадии рассмотрения и обсуждения.

NORWAY:

Electronic reporting system established and well working

- National PRTR-webportal established. Includes all sectors in Annex1 of the PRTR protocol besides aqua culture plants. They are to be included.

- PRTR-database established and includes all sectors and pollutants to comply with the PRTR-protocol

POLAND:

Protocol was signed on 21st May 2003 and ratified on 19th September 2012.

SLOVAKIA:

The date of accession is 1 April 2008. The Protocol on PRTRs of the Aarhus Convention, entered into force in the Slovak Republic on 8 October 2009. The Protocol on PRTRs of the Aarhus Convention became part of the national legal system by having been published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 353/2010.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland has ratified the Protocol in 2007.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. has a robust equivalent to a PRTR system with our Toxic Release inventory. We consulted with other UNECE governments in the drafting of the PRTR protocol . However, we do not anticipate joining the Protocol.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.24. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

The Austrian Environmental Information Act was amended in 2009 by Federal Law Gazette I No. 128/2009. It includes provisions for the National PRTR (§ 9a; www.prtr.at) and on the protection of whistle-blowers (§ 9b).

AZERBAIJAN:

Given the above, and hazardous chemical substances commerce, industry and other sources of information about the formation of the importance of the spread of understanding on the establishment of the National Register the Strategic Approach/SAICM to the management of potential pollution and chemicals on the implementation of the project was prepared.

Pollutants within the project management activities for the comprehensive assessment of the situation, depending on (for instance, in the field of chemicals management infrastructure, legislation, technical capacity for the implementation of PRT), and will help to eliminate. Discharge of pollutants and emissions, and pollutants distribution, collection and transmission of information on the disposal of chemical substances has been confirmed as the active tool.

This is useful information for policy development and implementation, as well as the need to inform the public about the risks of environmental events. The availability of these problems gives the priority to responsible person to make decision on degradation of the environment, hazardous substances, and the emergence of cross-border conflicts and regional discussions. The proposed project under the leadership of state agencies and interest groups, industry and academia, as well as co-operation with civil activity PRT encourages activities on the establishment. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and with the help of the technical and methodological tool for the implementation of the project will provide training seminars.

BULGARIA:

The Protocol requirements are in accordance with Regulation (EC) 166/2006 of the European Parliament and Council establishing the European Pollutant Release and Transportation Registry (EPRT), which was introduced into the national legislation through Chapter II of the Environmental Protection Act (amendment, SG 52/2008). In accordance with its requirements in 2009 a public register on a national level was created.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Since 2011, the Czech Republic is a member of the PRTR Bureau. The Czech Republic regularly contributes to capacity buildings activities (presentation at the 2011 Minsk “Get your right to a healthy community” Workshop and the Subregional Workshop on the PRTR for countries in South-Eastern Europe in May 2013).

GEORGIA:

The project: ‘Strengthening Capacities for Designing a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and Supporting Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Implementation in Georgia’ was started in Georgia in 2009 to evaluate the capacities for introduction of a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. The project has been implemented by CENN under the technical support of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia. Financial assistance is provided by Quick Start Program Trust Fund established for SAICM.

Main Outputs of the Project are :

- Agreed objectives of the National PRTR System;
- PRTR Briefing Document;
- Assessment of Existing Infrastructure Relevant to a National PRTR;
- PRTR Pilot Reporting Trial;
- Stakeholder Analysis Report;
- National PRTR Proposal;
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities carried out for all stakeholders, including civil society;
- Collaboration with a wide range of partners, including governmental actors, business community, non-profit actors, international organizations, and project stakeholders at all levels; and
- National PRTR website (<http://www.prtr-georgia.org/index.php/en>).

Next Steps

Development of the PRTR system in Georgia according to the National PRTR Proposal and work plan developed within the framework of the SAICM QSPTF project. This includes the development of legislation.

GREECE:

Greece as an EU Member State is implementing Regulation 166/2006/EC (E-PRTR). The competent authority, under the Ministry of Environment is going to assign a service contract to ensure full implementation of the provisions of the Protocol (including the establishment of the Registry).

ISRAEL:

As per the requirements of the law, reports on the first year of

implementation (2012) will be submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection by June 30, 2013, with subsequent reports to be submitted by March 31st of each year. The ministry will then review the reports and publish them on its PRTR website on December 1st, 2013, with subsequent reports to be published on September 1st.

KAZAKHSTAN:

Ведется практическая работа по внедрению данного Регистра. При поддержке ОБСЕ в Казахстане реализованы проекты по созданию Регистра выбросов и дальнейшей интеграции данных РК в европейский РВПЗ при участии неправительственных организаций и Министерства. Была проведена онлайн презентация Норвежского РВПЗ – как наиболее успешного реализованного в странах Евросоюза. Делегация из Казахстана ознакомилась в Финском экологическом институте с практикой создания и ведения РВПЗ.

SLOVAKIA:

It is implemented by the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information and on amendments of some acts as amended posterior.

SWITZERLAND:

The national implementation followed the Swiss Ordinance on PRTR that bases directly on the Protocol on PRTRs. The first reporting year was 2007. The register is available to the public under www.prtr.admin.ch

CAREC:

CAREC supported the implementation of a project aimed to promote good practices for nutrient reduction.

In Central Asia the project covered Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

The specific objectives of the project were: 1) To capture, analysis and summarize best practices and lessons learned; 2) To demonstrate of successful nutrient reduction replication strategies in two pilot areas ; 3) To disseminate and promote of nutrient reduction best practices, lessons learned and successful nutrient reduction replication strategies.

3.2.25. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AUSTRIA:

The first NIR will be due in December 2013.

BULGARIA:

According to Article 17, paragraph 2, of the PRTR Protocol and decision I/5 the Meeting of the Parties at its first session the first national implementation report should be prepared for the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and the deadline to submit the report to the Secretariat is 30 January 2014.

CROATIA:

Parties to the PRTR Protocol are invited to submit their national reports by the end of 2013 for the first time.

GREECE:

Annually a National report is submitted to the European Commission pursuant to the Regulation 166/2006/EC.

HUNGARY:

to be submitted by Jan 2014

ISRAEL:

The first report will be submitted until 30 January 2014, as required by the Secretariat.

KAZAKHSTAN:

В связи с тем что Казахстан не является стороной Протокола РВПЗ отчетность не предоставляется.

POLAND:

The first implementation report will be sent this year (2013).

SLOVAKIA:

The first national implementation report on the Protocol on PRTRs of the Aarhus Convention is just in the process of preparation and will be submitted to the Secretariat at the end of the year 2013.

SWITZERLAND:

The first regular national implementation report is currently in preparation, with participation of the stakeholders. The report is due for December 2013.

	<hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
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<p>ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (Strategy for ESD)</p>	<p>3.2.26. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>The Austrian Strategy for ESD was adopted by the government in 2008; Austria is actively involved in the UNECE steering committee. See http://www.umweltbildung.at/cgibin/dekadenbuero/af.pl?contentid=12003</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELGIUM:</p> <p>The Strategy for ESD was adopted in 2005.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Bulgaria has adopted the UNECE Education for Sustainable Development at the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, Vilnius, Lithuania, 17-18 March 2005.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>In 2006 Finland adopted a national strategy for ESD and was actively involved in the preparation of the UNECE strategy as well. The national strategy is in line with the UNECE strategy. The national ESD strategy has two parts and combined they cover the whole education system from pre-primary education to higher education and non-formal education. An independent evaluation of the national ESD strategy was conducted in 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>En application de la stratégie française de développement durable (SNDD 2010-2013), toutes les parties-prenantes et les pouvoirs publics concernés travaillent dans cet objectif à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action, au sein d'une plate-forme nationale dédiée : l'Espace National de Concertation (ENC) pour l'éducation à l'environnement et au développement durable (EEDD)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>The MoEP and the Ministry of Education have made a significant progress in promoting environmental education. Environmental education was defined as one of the five major targets of the MoEP during 2008-2010.</p> <p>One of the major initiatives of the past decade is the Green School Project, which encourages schools, with the cooperation of administration, students, parents and community, not just to teach environmental subjects but to act in a sustainable manner, to conserve resources, and to advance eco-efficiency. The project was initiated in</p>

2002 by the MoEP, Ministry of Education and representatives of environmental NGOs, as part of Israel's preparations for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development but has grown steadily in the following years.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В 2005 году после участия во Встрече высокого уровня Кыргызстан присоединился к региональному процессу осуществления Стратегии ОУР. Официальным бенефициантом Стратегии ЕЭК ООН по ОУР в Кыргызстане является Государственное агентство охраны окружающей среды и лесного хозяйства при ПКР. В 2005 году Стратегия переведена на государственный язык и размещена на официальном сайте ЕЭКООН.

В декабре 2005 года Кыргызская Республика единогласным решением стран Центральной Азии выбрана членом Бюро Руководящего комитета ЕЭК ООН по ОУР и с 2008 года представитель КР избран Заместителем Председателя Руководящего комитета ЕЭК ООН по ОУР.

В апреле 2011 года Кыргызстан переизбран на данный пост до окончания Декады ООН по ОУР и Стратегии ЕЭК ООН по ОУР. Кыргызстан активно продвигает вопросы ОУР на всех уровнях, включая политический.

NETHERLANDS:

The UNECE Strategy for ESD can be seen as a welcome process under the umbrella of UNESCO's Decade for ESD. It brought focus on ESD in UNECE Region, as this ESD strategy was well developed and did appeal to concrete actions. One of the examples of concrete mutual action were the Expert Group on Indicators for ESD, The Expert Group on Competences for ESD and a new group focussing on Climate Change and ESD.

Annual 'steering committee' on ESD is a platform for exchange of expertise and strategic action. A few very important publications - such as Regional reports on progress in ESD and the book 'Learning from Each other: completes the harvest of almost 10 years of cooperation. The UNECE experience was well received also outside the Region.

The Netherlands actively participated in all activities, and used the UNECE ESD strategy as inspiration for National Action Plans on ESD, also international cooperation was celebrated with e.g. Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Kazachstan, Georgia, and through contacts under the anual meetings in Geneva with several other countries.

As the Decade for ESD will have another 10-year cycle after RIO +20, and the UNECE is an useful platform in the Northern Hemisphere a continuation for the sake of ESD is welcomed.

ROMANIA:

As part of the EU integration effort, Romania approved the Strategy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (which has been translated into Romanian) and actively joined the United Nations Decade for ESD.

SLOVAKIA:

In December 2005 “national ESD platform”, the national commission for ESD was set up. The first phase of commission’s work was finished in December 2006 when the National Action Plan for ESD was finalized. This national implementation plan addresses objectives, activities, measures, tentative timetable and means of implementation. Despite this existing policy implementation framework the work on implementation the objectives of the NAP for ESD has been stagnating from the year 2007 due to the weak political and financial support at the governmental level.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland is taking part in the Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNECE in Geneva and supports activities in Central Asia Implementation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The U.S. strongly believe is education for sustainable development (ESD) and we have been involved in it for many decades. Indeed, U.S. Agricultural extension, which dates back over 100 years, is an excellent example of ESD. The U.S. also pioneered environmental education which has many common elements with ESD; but, formal education is strongly decentralized in the US and while some systems actively engage in programs that could be considered ESD others do not. In higher education too, there are university programs in sustainability and graduate programs in sustainability, even in some engineering and business schools. However, we find the declaration and approach taken by the to ESD in the UNECE to be too prescriptive for our approaches and we are not active in its meetings or formal implementation

CAREC:

CAREC is a key partner of the UNECE for its ESD strategy in Central Asia since 2003. CAREC supports: 1) developing and incorporating of the ESD strategy into national education systems, 2) ensuring that policy, regulatory and operational frameworks support ESD; 3) equipping educators with the competence to include SD in their teaching; ensuring that adequate tools and materials for ESD are accessible; 4) promoting research on and development of ESD; and 5) strengthening cooperation on ESD at all levels within the Central Asian region.

CAREC promotes ESD principles, methodologies and key themes of SD into education systems of Central Asian by: 1) raising awareness and practical experience on SD; 2) facilitation of sub-regional inter-government, -sector and -agency cooperation for SD; 3) supporting sub-regional dialogues and networking for SD; 4) capacity development on key themes of SD (climate change, energy efficiency, water, biodiversity, etc.), for different target groups; 5) and adaptation of the best ESD education practices in Central Asia; 6) development of respective educational, learning and methodological materials for SD; and 7) international cooperation and participation in global and regional (European/Asian-Pacific) ESD processes.

CAREC cooperates with: Central Asian ministries of education, environmental protection, health, culture, etc.; local authorities; non-formal and informal levels of the primary, secondary and higher education; educators; teachers of schools and universities; students and NGOs.

SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Strategy for ESD approved only in some European Countries (18 on national level, in some countries ESD is not in responsibility of national but regional governments). Even if some countries do not officially have strategy, they have made good progress in promoting of ESD. On the other side, some countries have fulfilled all official processes, but real results are not very good.

3.2.27. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

Regular (annual) reports to the UNECE Steering committee, Good Practises in ESD, published by UNECE; see website <http://www.unece.org/env/esd>

BELGIUM:

As regards Belgium and in particular Flanders, a Flemish ESD-Implementation plan was formally approved in 2009 by the Flemish government. The strategy implementation process is being coordinated by the ESD consultation platform, which is incorporated into the Nature and Environmental Education unit of the Environment, Nature and Energy department and seeks to give operational substance to governmental policy decisions. The ESD consultation platform comprises representatives of various departments of the Authorities of Flanders: Environment, Nature and Energy department, Education and Training department, Economy, Science and Innovation department, , Agriculture and Fisheries department, Welfare, Public Health and Culture department,

Flemish International Cooperation Agency, Tourism Flanders.

Apart from being a channel for interdepartmental cooperation, the ESD consultation platform is also a forum where stakeholders from outside the Flemish administration can consult with each other. Federal and provincial government agencies are represented, along with a wide variety of stakeholders from civil society. The consultation platform may be extended on an ad hoc basis with new albeit not permanent representatives when the agenda so requires.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria has not adopted yet national strategy on education for sustainable development but some initial steps has been made.

FINLAND:

ESD has been included in the National Basic Curricula of the basic education and upper secondary education. Sustainable Development is also integrated into the National Core Curricula and Qualification Requirements for Vocational Education and Training. The Performance Agreements between the Ministry of Education and Culture and each of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) state that the HEI's need to take into account sustainable development in all their activities. The HEI's have autonomy in deciding on their curricula. The Board of Education has provided for funding for in-service training on SD. Regional and local networks are established and several development projects have been implemented. Around half of the schools (basic education) have an SD plan. However, there is room for improvement at all levels of education. One of the challenges is to make SD more concrete and more approachable for the students.

Core Curricula of the The National Basic Curricula is currently under revision.

FRANCE:

Les lignes directrices en vue de ce plan national d'action pour l'EEDD seront débattues par tous les acteurs lors de la 2ème Conférence environnementale organisée par le gouvernement en septembre 2013.

GEORGIA:

Georgian National Strategy and Action Plan on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (2012-2014) was adopted in 2012. The Main responsible institutions for the implementation of the strategy and action plan are the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MENRP) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. On the basis of the Aarhus Centre Georgia, a new unit "Environmental Information and Education Centre" was established under the MENRP in May 2013, who will be actively engaged in the implementation process.

GREECE:

Greece has been working in depth in promoting activities implementing the three priority areas as decided at the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD, namely (a) to ensure that there is an education for sustainable development school plan in every school by 2015; (b) to promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education; and (c) to reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy; through decisions and circulars, in line with the endorsed work plan for the 3rd phase of the implementation of the Strategy.

Greece is also participating in the Bureau of the ESD Steering Committee, supporting, inter alia, the strengthening of the cooperation and synergies with other bodies starting to be involved in ESD issues, like the Union for the Mediterranean. It also supports the proposal for the organisation of a high level segment on ESD of Environment and Education Ministers that could be held during the next EfE Conference.

In this context, Greece (Ministries of Environment and of Education) is supporting the activities of the Mediterranean NGO Network "MIO-ESCDE" and of the Mediterranean network/project "MEDIES" on ESD since 2002. Moreover, it will participate in the Ministerial Meeting of Environment and Education Ministers of Mediterranean countries that will take place in Monaco, in October 2013, in order to adopt the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD, the mandate for the elaboration of which was given in Athens, during an intentional meeting for the launching of the ESD Decade, in 2005. The preparation of the Monaco Ministerial was organised in Croatia in mid June 2013, with the support of an EU (AidCo/ENPI) service contract led by the University of Athens.

HUNGARY:

For phase I and II see implementation reports. As regards phase III, several projects are on-going although the overall framework is still missing. (The National Strategy and Action Plan should follow soon).

ISRAEL:

The MoEP, Ministry of Education and their partners have developed many strategies to implement ESD. Guidelines were drafted for certifying green campuses (kindergarten, grade schools and universities). The schools that met those guidelines (formal studies, rational use of resources, and contribution to the community) received rebates for expenses. The MoEP invests 3 million NIS (New Israeli Shekels) each year on this project. Additionally, the MoEP created training courses for grade school educators in order to integrate sustainability into the education system. This year the MoEP started a similar program for youth groups and invested 500,000 NIS. Sustainability Introductory courses are available in colleges and are taught by trained professionals. These instructors participate in a variety of training courses provided by the MoEP. The MoEP funds (3,000,000 NIS) and supports municipal

authorities in preparing and mapping water and energy efficiency program as well as the Recycling Action Plan.

KYRGYZSTAN:

За время реализации Стратегии в КР осуществлен ряд мероприятий:

- Постановлением Правительства КР образован Координационный комитет по ОУР, куда вошли представители ключевых министерств и ведомств, образовательных учреждений, науки и НПО.
- Проведена Субрегиональная конференция по ОУР с участием всех заинтересованных сторон, в том числе министров окружающей среды и образования стран Центрально-Азиатского региона.
- Ключевые темы устойчивого развития включены в образовательные стандарты на уровне среднего, средне-специального и высшего образования.
- При поддержке международных и государственных организаций в Кыргызстане успешно реализован ряд проектов по интеграции вопросов ОУР в систему школьного, внешкольного и высшего образования.
- В 2013 году по инициативе Ассоциации «Хельветас интеркооперейшн Кыргызстан» Региональным центром экспертизы по ОУР в Кыргызстане (РЦЭ-КГ) при участии и поддержке Госагентства охраны окружающей среды и лесного хозяйства при ПКР, Агентства профессионально-технического образования проведен Обзор возможностей КР в области интеграции вопросов «зеленой» экономики и формирования «зеленых» навыков в системе профессионально-технического и начального профессионального образования.
- Созданы сайты по продвижению вопросов ОУР в Кыргызстане www.ecobilim.kg, www.mektep.kat.kg
- Проведены семинары и тренинги для учителей школ, преподавателей учреждений начального профессионального образования и высших учебных заведений.
- На постоянной основе проводятся мероприятия по информированию общественности о деятельности Госагентства в области ОУР и экологического образования.

POLAND:

Polish system of general education offers possibility of education for sustainable development in accordance with the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development elaborated by the UN. This is confirmed by the presence of environmental issues, additionally integrated with economic and social issues, in numerous subjects at each level of education.

In third level of education, the current regulation on standards for each field and level of study include matters related to ESD, such as: promotion of sustainable development- biology, chemistry, geography,

	<p>human rights - administration, law, social policy or intercultural dialogue-management, journalism, social communication.</p> <p>ESD is a part of the in-service teachers training for non-formal and informal education. Within non-formal and informal sector of education there is a network of institutions, associations, NGOs and training centers - targeted towards teachers, students and educators involved in ESD, frequently in cooperation with Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Despite the fact that more and more teachers reach for available materials on ESD, there is still great percentage of teachers who do not have awareness or technical capacity to benefit from on-line content. Internet portals on ESD offer teachers a wide variety of teaching materials such as educational resources, publications, e-learning courses, already prepared lesson scenarios, tests, interactive maps and thematic games.</p> <p>Funds for ESD are available from various sources including National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in respect of global education) or Ministry of the Environment, usually in form of calls.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA:</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport (MoERYYS) is the decision-making authority designated, among other authorities (for example the Ministry of the Environment and Forests), for reporting on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and serves as a focal point for the implementation of the Strategy. A working group has been set up in order to elaborate National Implementation Reports (such a Report was submitted at the end of 2010). However, Romania has not yet adopted a national strategy on sustainable development or national implementation plan on ESD, as recommended by the UNECE Strategy on ESD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>The Swiss Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (SC ESD) is continuing to work on the systematic integration of ESD into the compulsory education curriculum of each canton/linguistic region (Measure 1) and into the training and continuing education of teachers (Measure 2). The process of implementation will be closed at the end of 2014.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UKRAINE:</p> <p>Согласно Закону Украины «Об основных принципах (стратегии) государственной экологической политики Украины на период до 2020 года», Национального плана действий по охране окружающей среды на 2011-2015 годы, принятого распоряжением Кабинета Министров Украины от 25.05.2011 «577-р, Соглашения (проект) об ассоциации Украины с ЕС, Стратегии ЕЭК ООН по образованию для устойчивого развития (ОУР) разработан проект Стратегии</p>
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образования для сбалансированного (устойчивого)развития. Указанный проект дорабатывается Министерством экологии и природных ресурсов совместно с Министерством науки и образования Украины и готовится для предоставления на рассмотрения и согласование в заинтересованные центральные органы исполнительной власти.

CAREC:

Practical deliveries achieved under CAREC leadership in Central Asia:

1. Since 2003, the representatives from the ministries of education and environment, NGOs, schools, universities and trainers are networking via regular meeting events (sub-regional conferences, workshops, trainings);
2. Regional working group (WG) on ESD to support ESD and SD initiatives is established and operational;
3. A multi-donor “Leadership Programme on ESD” is annually being conducted;
4. Educational multimedia materials such as the “Green Pack for Central Asia”, “Glaciers Green Pack”, “Caspian Green Pack”, based on the “Green Pack” concept of the REC have been developed and introduced in schools;
5. Two disciplines: “Ecology & Sustainable Development” and “Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Development” were developed for the Higher Education System of Kazakhstan. The first became mandatory for bachelor-level students of all subjects. The second one is a voluntary course at the Kazakh National Technical University;

SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Implementation of ESD in progress only in some European Countries (on national level, in some countries ESD is not in responsibility of national but regional governments) Even if some countries do not officially have strategy, they have made good progress in promoting of ESD. On the other side, some countries have fulfilled all official processes, but real results are not very good.

3.2.28. Formal reporting (national implementation reports):

AUSTRIA:

Regular reports to the UNECE Steering committee, reporting to UNECE-ESD Indicators Review in 2006/07 and 2010, review in 2014 is envisioned.

BELGIUM:

We have reported formally in 2010 to UNECE and UNESCO.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria submitted national reports in 2007 and 2010.

FINLAND:

Finland has submitted reports on implementation of the UNECE strategy on ESD on a yearly basis according to the annual guidelines provided by the UNECE secretariat and priorities agreed in the UNECE steering group on ESD.

FRANCE:

Le rapport annuel présenté au Parlement sur la mise en oeuvre de la SNDD 2010-2013 comporte obligatoirement un chapitre dédié au rapportage sur l'éducation et la formation au développement durable.

GREECE:

The latest national formal implementation report was submitted (and orally presented) during the 8th Steering Committee meeting on ESD, on March 21, 2013.

HUNGARY:

reports submitted 15 Dec 2006 and 30 Sept 2010

ISRAEL:

On April of 2010, Israel submitted its National Report to the Eighteenth's session to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It stated that in Israel, the MoEP, the Ministry of Education, community centers, and non-governmental organizations are continuously developing formal and informal education programs. Targeted at all segments of the population, many of these programs deal with raising awareness for sustainable consumption by means of the three R's – recycle, reuse and reduce:

- Recycle: recycling projects have ranked high among school activities, whether composting workshops (utilizing composting bins provided by the MoEP to participating schools), paper recycling competitions or used battery collection campaigns. In addition, students often collect and return used beverage containers and transfers the redeemed deposits to charities throughout the country.
- Reuse: plastic bag reuse is high on the agenda for school children. The plastic bags are turned into carpets, handbags, and ornamental statues.
- Reduce consumption: The MoEP published an activity book teaching children how to reduce use of different kinds of daily products. The simple understanding of product cycle and the ability to repeat it is considered to be an empowering and an awareness rising experience.

POLAND:

Poland participated in preparation of the voluntary progress report for the

Belgrade Ministerial Conference in 2007 as well as the first formal report at the end of Phase II of the Strategy in 2010.

SLOVAKIA:

The strategy has been translated into Slovak language and distributed to the appropriate authorities. Its national contact point was established in 2005. Good basis for starting the implementation process ECE approval was the National Action Plan for SD in July 2005, which includes part of these educational goals of UNECE.

In December 2005, "national ESD platform", National Commission for ESD was established and began work on a task, the ESD into education and lifelong learning as such. This committee consists of representatives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders. The Ministry of Education is the coordinating body of the Commission. The first phase of the Commission's work was completed in December 2006, when a national action plan for ESD was completed. The National Implementation Plan addresses the objectives, activities, actions, preliminary schedule and method of implementation. The national plan was developed with the participatory approach, but due to lack of time can not be all stakeholders and partners were involved in the drafting of it. The action plan was signed by the Minister of Education. At the moment of the action plan is put to public debate and what we hope will be submitted to the Slovak Government for approval.

Current status: since 2007 the work of the subcommittees of the National Committee for ESD, which experts at different levels of education are preparing curricula for primary and secondary schools in accordance with the overall curriculum reform of the education system. ESF became one of four horizontal themes that must be respected in the educational program of each school. Experts in the field of higher education are identified possibilities of universities to become more sustainable through the educational content they provide, but also by incorporating SD principals in their overall personal and institutional management.

In 2007 was founded CASALEN network of experts from non-governmental, academic and non-governmental organizations, in which cooperation is in the mid-Vysegrad European countries and the Carpathian Convention, should be one of the moderators and mediators ESD in the region. Hungary organized the first meeting in November 2007, where the ECJ future cooperation between the participating countries was discussed.

Concluding our intervention, we can say that I. stage was very successful, if we already have some basis and mechanism for implementation of the UNECE Strategy at national level and also to share information and support partnerships between various actors. It is the National Commission for ESD. What you are really missing is a stronger political support, including financial one, at all levels of government.

A lot of things to be done there (eg media solutions, training and retraining of teachers, decision, public servants in relation to SD, establishing and strengthening links and better partnerships, etc.), but we

	<p>believe we are well on the trace and the 2010 implementation of ESD Slovakia should be in full swing. Light in the tunnel towards sustainable thinking and acting is, hopefully, more and more visible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>2013 we collaborate at the Member States DESD Survey (UNO)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>Support of formal reporting on ESD in Central Asia is provided by UNECE with support of CAREC. Examples: 2007 –sub regional workshop for preparation for the voluntary reporting under the UNECE ESD Strategy. 2010 - sub regional workshop for assisting to CA countries in preparation for the first Mandatory reporting under the UNECE ESD Strategy. 2012 –a regional workshop on promotion of the UNECE educators’ competences in ESD in Central Asia on the base of the document “Learning for a Better Future”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:</p> <p>See http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/esd/6thMeetSC/Informal%20Documents/Information%20Doc%202.pdf</p>
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<p>Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)</p>	<p>3.2.29. Status (more than one box can be ticked):</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>""+ National Task Force Meetings and national coordination with Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Infrastructure and of their contributions</p> <p>+ Financial contributions to THE PEP in the years 2008 – 2012 to he amount of €238.000,--.""</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>PEP contact point (at Ministry of Communication and Transport) has recently changed – information not available in the given survey-timetable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE:</p> <p>La déclaration d’Amsterdam adoptée en 2009 propose 4 objectifs stratégiques aux pays membres. La France membre du bureau du programme participe activement à leur mise en oeuvre et recevra, en avril 2014, la réunion stratégique ministérielle qui validera la déclaration de Paris et fixera les nouveaux objectifs du programme de 2014 à 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUNGARY:</p> <p>in the TRANSDANUBE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NETHERLANDS:</p> <p>The Netherlands used to be quite active until 2012. However with the ending of the Dutch Environment and Health Programme in 2012 the active participation in this process stopped.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Implementation of Amsterdam declaration goals and action plane by decrease the environmental and health risks from transport.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>We view THE PEP is a partnership in which we share best practices with others and learn from their efforts. We do not view THE PEP as a prescriptive set of programs that needs to be formally implemented. That said we have long understood the nexus of Transport, Health and Environment and we have many different programs, mostly at a subnational and local level but some with encouragement from the federal government, that address the nexus.</p>

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.30. Implementation:

AUSTRIA:

+ „klima:aktiv mobil“, the Austrian Action Programme for environmentally-friendly mobility launched by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, is motivating and supporting cities, municipalities and regions, companies, tourism, schools and others to implement projects for reducing their transport related GHG and is stimulating the economy and green jobs by supporting investments in green technologies, environmentally friendly mobility services and infrastructure. More than 4.000 klima:aktiv mobil project partners saving 540.000 to CO₂/year with a national overall budget by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of about €10 million/ year.

+ National implementation of THE PEP Tool Heat (Health Economic Assessment Tool) for Cycling; Calculating the health benefits of implementing the Masterplan Cycling in Austria; Translation and dissemination of HEAT to cities and regions, stakeholders, planners and experts

+ National implementation of THE PEP HEAT for Walking, including Materplan Walking (in conception)

+ Application HEAT for Companies

+ Contribution to THE PEP Partnership on jobs in green and healthy transport: by the klima:aktiv mobil programme

+ Contribution to THE PEP Partnership on eco-driving: Eco-driving practical tests by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in the frame of the Conference Sustainable Development of Urban Transport, 7-8 June 2012, Moscow, Follow up on 5 march 2013 International Symposium “How to ensure sustainable functioning of transport systems”, Moscow – agreement on possible cooperation in the field of Eco-Driving between Austria and Russian Federation; Contribution to THE PEP WS “Green and healthy-friendly sustainably mobility: focus on urban Central Asia” with a focus on eco-driving

CZECH REPUBLIC:

In May 2013 the Czech Republic updated the National Strategy for the

Development of Bicycle Transport.

FRANCE:

Le PNSE2 comprenait pour la première fois des mesures transports, élaboration d'un plan pour les mobilités actives, développement des mobilités durables, covoiturage, autopartage, TCSP, vélo, marche, planification urbain.

GERMANY:

There are no legally binding THE PEP documents, which have to be implemented. There's the idea of implementing the THE PEP priority goals by means of national transport, health and environment action plans (NTHEAPs). There is no NTHEAP in Germany so far. A German action plan for environment and health exists already headed by the Federal Environment Agency.

GREECE:

Relative initiatives are undertaken occasionally

SLOVAKIA:

Implementation of Amsterdam declaration goals and action plane is under the responsibility of joint committee, members of this committee are ministries and NGOs.

Main goals are to improve the public transport and non-motorised modes of transport and decrease the environmental and health risks from transport.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.2.31. Reporting (responding to THE PEP survey on progress in the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals):

AUSTRIA:

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management submits in coordination with the Austrian Ministry of Health and the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Infrastructure the contributions to the yearly surveys of progress in the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals.

	<p>FRANCE:</p> <p>Le PEP interroge chaque année l'ensemble des pays membres à l'aide d'un questionnaire dont les résultats sont exposés en comité directeur.</p> <p>SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Slovakia is involved in the preparation process of the high level meeting to be held in Paris next year.</p> <p>CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
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3.3. Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring

Overall assessment in your country:

AUSTRIA:

Extensive monitoring networks are in place and well established in Austria.

AZERBAIJAN:

The state monitoring system of environment and natural resources was established by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and this activity is carried out together with the bodies of executive power.

Environmental monitoring is consist of implementation with the scientific basis of control in terms of quantity and quality and investigations and regular observations defining their chemical composition, the degree of pollution, radioactive and hydrobiological characteristics, physical aspects toward evaluation and prediction of the situation of air, water and soil environments.

BELGIUM:

In Belgium, environmental assessments are produced regularly at regional and federal level. The different states of the environment are available on the websites listed below. The metadata are also available on the SERIS website (<http://forum.eionet.europa.eu/nrc-state-environment/seris/>) of the European Environment Agency.

Flanders:

- Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij (VMM) (Flemish Environment Agency), MIRA: environmental indicators (www.milieuindicatoren.be) and environmental reporting and assessment (www.environmentflanders.be).

- Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek (INBO) (Research Institute for Nature and Forest), NARA: nature indicators (www.natuurindicatoren.be)

Wallonia:

- Public Service of Wallonia (SPW) - Direction de l'état environnemental - Cellule Etat de l'Environnement Wallon : indicators on air, climate, water, waste, soils, fauna, flora, natural habitats, forests, industry, households, tertiary sector, transport, energy, health & environment, noise, eco-efficiency, production modes, consumption modes, environmental infractions ; etc.; (<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/>).

Brussels:

- « Brussels Environnement » (IBGE - BIM) : air, energy, climate, noise, water, waste, soil contamination, nature & biodiversity, industry, transport, health&environment , ...

(<http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/etatdelenvironnement> ; see in particular in the section ""Etat de l'Environnement"" : ""Rapport détaillé"" and ""synthèse"" and in the section ""Analyses thematiques"" : ""Fiches documentées"", ""Rapports techniques"" et ""Analyses pour l'IBSA"").

A new tool referring to the indicators developed for the new SOE-Report will be online in the near future.

Federal:

- FPS Health, Food Safety and Environment (www.health.fgov.be) (federal report on the environment in 2010, report on federal environmental indicators in 2012).

BULGARIA:

- Air Quality Monitoring and Control and access of municipalities to the data in real time;
- Monitoring based on quality control on all biological elements of surface water;
- Brought into use the soil characteristics, comparable with WBR;
- Strengthening the National Greenhouse Gases Inventory System, updating the archive and data and specific sectorial QA/QC procedure;
- Maintaining public registers for registration of persons who put on the market products, after which use widespread waste is generated;
- Assessment of the state of biological species, based on real time monitoring data;
- Updating the National Automatic Monitoring System for Radiation Gamma Background.

GREECE:

Greece (the Ministry of Environment) contributes regularly to the EIONET (European environment information and observation network) Priority Data Flows. The Ministry of Environment also cooperates closely with the Hellenic Statistical Authority on environmental monitoring data, which collaborates with Eurostat and the European Commission, as well as with the National Statistical Institutes of other EU Member States.

The Ministry of Environment also ensures collection and update of environmental data through:

1. Air-quality monitoring

2. Water quality, water quantity and ecological status monitoring
3. Air emissions monitoring (main industrial installations emissions)
4. Combustion and fuel monitoring programmes
5. Inventory of local and waste management authorities reporting on waste quantities, treatment and management
6. Noise monitoring
7. Environmental inspectorate monitoring
8. Air emissions trade registry
9. Ozone Depleting Substances

ISRAEL:

The Israel-Germany Twinning Project was launched on June 11, 2013. It marked the advancement of the previously mentioned "green licensing" law, as well as the start of the project for the establishment of a system of integrated environmental licensing for industry. The twinning project's goals include, creating an integrated system for permitting and inspecting of industrial operations, ready for adoption and implementation. It will be an improved environmental information system through a functioning PRTR; necessary preoperational work is completion for the establishment of a "green growth" knowledge center (also called an IPPC service center), where stakeholders can network and can collect and distribute knowledge about clean technology and green production. The project is expected to run until December 2014.

The MoEP monitors compliance with legal environmental stipulations in relation, inter alia, to air pollution, water pollution, illegal dumping, noise nuisances, vibrations, etc. The Ministry operates two main inspection bodies: the Green Police and the Israel Police Environmental Unit. Another monitoring program is based on environmental indicators including heavy metals in sediments, heavy metals in benthic organisms, organic pollutants in sediments, nutrients in coastal streams and coastal waters and microalgae in coastal waters. The findings of the national monitoring program are complemented by the findings of local monitoring programs, which are routinely carried out by facilities discharging pollutants to sea in accordance with the conditions stipulated in their discharge permits or within the framework of environmental impact assessments or environmental documents.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Отсутствует единая национальная система мониторинга. Практически не ведется необходимый мониторинг в таких важных сферах, как опасные отходы, тяжелые металлы, отсутствует морфологический учет отходов, которые сбрасываются на обычные наземные свалки (особенно в сельской местности) или складироваться на предприятиях и др.

В Кыргызстане отсутствует как комплексная, так и межотраслевая электронная база данных окружающей среды. Результаты экологического мониторинга в Кыргызстане не достаточно широко используются для принятия решений, разработки политики или повышения осведомленности общественности.

В целях проведения эффективной деятельности по охране окружающей среды, важно иметь объективную и современную аналитическую информацию по состоянию

окружающей среды. Эта информация должна быть доступна, как для государственных органов, так и для широкой общественности.

Доклады о состоянии окружающей среды должны являться ключевыми информационными продуктами для страны. Экологические показатели, на которых основываются доклады, являются основным средством оценки состояния окружающей среды, представления экологической отчетности и формирования природоохранной политики.

Процесс подготовки регулярных докладов ведет к совершенствованию сбора экологических данных, дальнейшему улучшению экологической отчетности и содействию повышения сопоставимости экологических статистических данных и показателей с другими странами.

В рамках подготовки Национального доклада о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики за 2006-2011 годы проведен анализ существующей ситуации по экологическим показателям в Кыргызской Республике по направлениям: загрязнение атмосферного воздуха и разрушение озонового слоя, изменение климата, водные ресурсы, биоразнообразие, земельные ресурсы, сельское хозяйство, энергетика, транспорт, отходы.

Для полноценного анализа имеющейся информации и полного охвата экологических показателей при разработке Национального доклада о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики вовлечены все заинтересованные министерства, ведомства и организации, в компетенцию которых входит сбор и анализ информации в области охраны окружающей среды.

На основании полученных официальных данных от министерств и ведомств, согласно направленных Госагентством запросов, подготовлены проекты разделов Национального доклада, которые обсуждены на восьми круглых столах, с участием представителей Жогорку Кенеш КР, вовлеченных министерств, ведомств, НАН КР, организаций, НПО и международных организаций. Информация обобщена и сведена в проект Национального доклада.

POLAND:

Due to the European Union obligations.

ROMANIA:

Romania became a member of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in 2001. Membership was ratified via Law No. 662 of 2001, and Romania has appointed a National Focal Point to the EEA/EIONET (NFP), – the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, in order to fulfil its obligations (a complete list of Romania’s reporting obligations can be found in the EIONET “Reporting Obligations Database”).

The Ministry of the Environment and and Climate Change has an entire section on its website devoted to environmental legislation, including the list of EU Directives, Regulations and Decisions, and their transposition into Romanian law, but also a dedicated website for RO-EEA-EIONET (where state-of-environment reports are available).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have been committed to environmental monitoring for a very long time and continue to look for ways to make these efforts more efficient and effective and to utilize them in decision

making. Our commitment has not been influenced by the EfE but we have welcomed the efforts of the European member states to undertake a shared environmental information system.

CAREC:

CAREC supported several joint water quality monitoring missions of national hydro-meteo services on small transboundary watersheds and trained stakeholders to make a simple water quality tests.

GREEN LIBERTY:

Latvia is producing its environmental indicator reports every 4 years. However reports are poorly communicated both to public and decision makers therefore have little impacts on policy development and implementation.

**3.3.1.
Production of
indicator-based
state-of-the-
environment
reports**

AUSTRIA:

Austria has a well-developed system of environmental and sustainable development indicators, and has undertaken a series of initiatives to measure well-being. Austria has adopted a relatively open approach on information for the public and generally responds positively to requests for information,

One example: Results of monitoring and assessments on water quality and quantity both for surface waters and groundwater are published on an annual basis.

AZERBAIJAN:

The use issue for the sake of protection of the environment, a healthy natural environment and survival and use of natural resources to improve the well-being of our people occupies an important place in the socio-economic reforms in our country.

At the end of each year a report is presented to the Government by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and posted on the website of Ministry.

The last report covering the period 2008-2012 about environmental situations has been published. The report has been prepared in the result of effort of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the representatives of civil society institutions, and has been discussed in the Public Ecological Council established under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. The environmental situation significantly improved in the result of consistent measures carried out the enhancement of the environment, beside the development of economic, social, cultural and other sectors in Azerbaijan Republic.

The rapid development of the economy, including the successful implementation of the national oil strategy has created wonderful opportunities for the solution of environmental problems.

In recent years, the significant achievements were achieved in the field of environmental protection in the result of purposeful public policy and international experience.

BELARUS:

В 2010 году впервые издан Национальный доклад, подготовленный по результатам 2005-2009 гг. согласно рекомендациям, изложенным в Руководстве по подготовке оценочных докладов по охране окружающей среды, основанных на применении экологических показателей в странах Восточной Европы (ECE/СЕР/140) и отраженных в документе «Рекомендации правительствам стран Восточной Европы, Кавказа и Центральной Азии по применению экологических показателей и подготовке на их основе оценочных докладов по охране окружающей среды» (ECE/СЕР/2007/8).

В соответствии с указанными выше документами подготовлена система основных экологических показателей Республики Беларусь,

включающая как международные, так и национальные экологические показатели.

Планируется продолжение данной работы – издание второго доклада, основанного на показателях

BELGIUM:

Within the SOE-reports environmental data are systematically collected and presented according to the DPSI-R framework for every environmental topic and special attention is given to the pressures exerted by different economic sectors.

Flanders:

Since 2004, these environmental indicators are accessible through the MIRA-website and updated yearly (see above).

For the nature reports, sets of nature indicators were presented for the first time within the 2005 NARA-report. These indicators are also available through the internet and are updated regularly (see above).

Wallonia:

Since 2003, more than 100 environmental indicators are presented in the “Tableau de Bord de l’Environnement Wallon” (every year) and the “Rapport analytique sur l’état de l’environnement wallon” (every 5 years). Special attention is given to the responses given by the public authorities for improving environment’s quality. Those environmental indicators are accessible through the website: <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/>.

Brussels:

A set of environmental indicators is presented in the detailed report on the state of the environment (every 4 years) and the synthetic report (every 2 years). The aim of the last version of this SOE-report (2007-2010) is to develop indicators that will be systematically collected for different environmental topics.

Federal:

Yearly Environmental Statistical Compendium ""Aperçu des statistiques de l’environnement – Overview of environmental statistics and environmental portal at Statistics Belgium (<http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/chiffres/environnement/>).

The minister of Environment will publish every 4 years a description, analysis and evaluation of state of the environment and its policy for all federal competences. The first report was published in 2010.

BULGARIA:

The Annual National State of Environment Report is indicator-based and contains data corresponding to EEA standards. The environmental assessments are based on European core set of indicators, and overall accepted methodological approaches are applied. The relationship between National statistics and other state organizations and institutions

has been substantially improved.

FINLAND:

Finland's environmental administration works to keep citizens and partners up to date by providing the latest information available. This is primarily done by the website www.environment.fi, which is also linked to other relevant authorities websites. The latest printed overall State of the environment report was published in 2009 <http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=105175&lan=fi> . The next general State of the Environment Report will be published in December 2013 . In addition, several indicator based reports on specific topics have been produced.

Indicators have been developed and are used in monitoring the national strategy for sustainable development. An overall set of national progress indicators and data on sustainability progress can be found at www.findicator.fi

GEORGIA:

National Report on the State of Environment of Georgia is prepared in accordance with the Article 14 of the Law of Georgia on "Environment Protection" and the Presidential Decree N 389 of 25 June 1999 on the "Rules of Development of National Report on the State of Environment".

According to the Georgian legislation, for the purpose of public information the National Report on the State of Environment shall be developed once every three years.

2007-2009 SoE report was prepared in Georgian and English languages and published in 500 copies for each language. The document is also uploaded on the official web-page of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (<http://www.moe.gov.ge>) as well as on the web-page of Aarhus Centre Georgia (<http://www.aarhus.ge>).

This was the first attempt of the preparation of indicator-based SOE. The document includes relevant chapters to "Key environmental indicators for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia"; in addition, the SoE report of Georgia includes country-specific sections.

At present, the Ministry is working on indicator-based 2010-2012 National Report on the State of Environment.

GERMANY:

Besides several in-depth cross-sectoral reports on the state of the environment, numerous sector/topic specific indicator-based reports are regularly being produced.

Indicator-based data is also continuously up-dated and provided online by numerous sector specific subordinated agencies.

GREECE:

The National Centre for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the elaboration of SoE reports (last report published in 2009). Greece also contributes to the preparation of the State of the Environment Report of the European Environment Agency (EEA), published every 5 years (last report published in 2010).

Environmental data is collected and processed in compliance with the EU legislation and in accordance with the environmental reporting obligations and specifications of EEA and Eurostat.

HUNGARY:

Indicator based SOE reports are produced on a 2 year basis by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. The ministry responsible for environment (now Ministry for Rural development) also regularly produces SOE reports.

ISRAEL:

The document ""State of the Environment in Israel - Indicators, Data and Trends 2010"", was published by the MoEP in English in 2011 and is available online on the Ministry's website (http://old.sviva.gov.il/Environment/Static/Binaries/index_pirsumim/p0607_2.pdf).

It presents selected indicators based on a more comprehensive report in Hebrew (published in 2010), which compiles data on more than one hundred different indicators; most indicators are environmental, but some relate to economic and social fields as well. The report reflects the state of the environment in Israel in a wide range of fields including: a percent of recycled waste of all kinds, air quality, land contamination, quality of water resources, biodiversity, radiation, noise, etc. An updated edition of the document is to be published every several years. Based on this publication, it is the intention of the MoEP to create an online integrated database of the state of environment in Israel. The database will include pressures, conditions, responses, and changes over time; it will also monitor policy implementation.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В целях доступа, как правительственных органов, так и широкой общественности к объективной и достоверной аналитической информации о состоянии окружающей среды, разработан в соответствии с «Руководством по подготовке оценочных докладов по охране окружающей среде, основанных на экологических показателях» (подготовленным Рабочей группой по мониторингу и оценке окружающей среды Комитета ЕЭК ООН по экологической политике) Национальный доклад о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики за 2006-2011 годы.

В рамках подготовки Национального доклада о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики за 2006-2011 годы проведен анализ существующей ситуации по экологическим показателям в Кыргызской Республике по направлениям: загрязнение атмосферного воздуха и разрушение озонового слоя, изменение климата, водные ресурсы, биоразнообразие, земельные ресурсы, сельское хозяйство, энергетика, транспорт, отходы.

Национальный доклад о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики за 2006-2011 годы одобрен постановлением Правительства КР от 7 августа 2012 года № 553. Издан на кыргызском и русском языках, в бумажном и электронном виде.

Кыргызская Республика осознает необходимость дальнейшего улучшения основанных на показателях экологических оценок и отчетности. В этой связи, в соответствии с постановлением Правительства КР Государственному агентству охраны окружающей среды и лесного хозяйства при Правительстве Кыргызской Республики поручено представлять Национальный доклад о состоянии окружающей среды Кыргызской Республики в Правительство Кыргызской Республики до 1 июля года, следующего за отчетным, с периодичностью - один раз в три года.

NETHERLANDS:

Balans van de Leefomgeving (PBL)

ROMANIA:

The National Agency for Environmental Protection (NEPA), along with its 8 regional agencies and 34 county-level agencies, is responsible for environmental monitoring and reporting to the European Environment Agency on the following areas: air quality, climate change, protected areas, soil contamination, and water (data is available both on the Romanian website and on the EEA website,). For example: state-of-the-environment reports – annual reports – are available online for the years 2006-2010. Sections for monthly state-of-the-environment reports have also been designed; however, there is no information available as yet. Daily and monthly air quality bulletins, and annual air quality reports, are also available. The National Centre for Monitoring Risks in the Community also has several Reports – for example, a Report on the quality of drinking water.

SLOVAKIA:

In terms of the Act No. 17/1992 Coll. On environment and the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. On collection, storage, and dissemination of environmental information the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic annually issues since 1993 a Report on the Environment State evaluating the state of environment in the Slovak Republic. The report is available to general public at the MoE website and the website of Enviroportal – information portal on environment.

	<p>Another type of reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOE Indicator Reports according D-P-S-I-R structure• Sectoral Indicator Reports – impacts of economy sectors activities (forestry, industry, transport, tourism, energy, agriculture, etc.) on the state of environment• Regional SOE reports <p>All above mentioned types of SOE reports are available on: http://www1.enviroportal.sk/spravy-zp/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Switzerland adopted in 2004 a general concept for environmental reporting, including the production of national state-of-the environment report every two years by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN</p> <p><i>http://www.bafu.admin.ch/umwelt/10822/index.html?lang=en</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
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**3.3.2.
Enterprise
environmental
monitoring and
reporting**

AUSTRIA:

Austria has a well established Monitoring system and Austrian legislation provides for a wide range of responses to non-compliance. Violations of environmental permits most often result in orders requiring the permit holder to restore lawful conditions within a determined time.

AZERBAIJAN:

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic creates state monitoring system of the environment and natural resources and this activity is implemented in collaboration with other relevant executive authorities.

State monitoring of the environment and natural resources is implemented on the basis of laws of Azerbaijan Republic, decrees and orders of the President of Azerbaijan Republic, decisions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic, international contracts supported our country in the field of environmental protection, agreements, conventions and these regulations. State monitoring of the environment and natural resources includes monitoring of the atmospheric air, monitoring of water resources, land monitoring, radioactivity monitoring, waste monitoring and sanitary-epidemiological monitoring. State monitoring system of the environment and natural resources is set up and operate in Azerbaijan Republic according to the 17th item of the “On Environmental Protection” law.

State monitoring of the environment and natural resources provides environmental protection and management of nature usage and the control, envisages the creation of relevant data banks and information systems.

Enterprise environmental (production) monitoring is intended according to the 18th item of the law.

Legal entities (nature users) are obliged to enforce Enterprise environmental (production) monitoring and to keep records and reports of environmental impact of their implemented economic activities that may cause environmental hazards.

Report on Enterprise (production) monitoring is introduced to relevant executive authorities of Azerbaijan Republic in the field of environmental protection in the periods coordinated with them. Thus, nature users submit necessary information on the basis of forms determined by Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources on monitoring of the environment and natural resources by demand of the organs implementing state supervision in the field of environmental protection.

BELARUS:

Система локального мониторинга функционирует с 2008 года, экологическая отчетность представляется ежегодно

BELGIUM:

Several enterprise activities exist. Inspection and permits regulations are well implemented across the different parts of the country. The PRTR is described more in detail as an example.

Belgium has played an active role in developing the PRTR (pollutant release and transfer register) Protocol since the beginning of negotiations in 2001. After its formal adoption and the Protocol signing at the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Kiev, May 2003, Belgium continued its leading role both within the European Union and within the UN work group responsible for discussions on the Protocol.

The provisions in the PRTR Protocol were adapted to a European regulation (166/2006 of 18 January 2006) which came into force on 24 February 2006. Belgium immediately began the Protocol's ratification process and completed this on 12 March 2009. On 8 October 2009, the PRTR Protocol entered into force at international level.

The Regions are responsible for the implementation of the dispositions of the Protocol. The federal state is only competent for the dispositions regarding access to justice.

The E-PRTR data are available on the European Environment Agency website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>).

BULGARIA:

Pursuant to EU regulations and directives, environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises is implemented in Bulgaria for more than 10 years. It is implemented in the field of air quality, water management, noise protection, etc and among the implementing instruments are the integrated permits, water use permits, water discharge permits, GHG emissions permits, EIA decisions, and other instruments.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Ministry of Environment has been organizing regular meetings and workshops on environmental accounting.

FINLAND:

Self-monitoring by the enterprises is an obligatory part of their environmental permits, covering emissions and their effects on waters, air and soil. The monitoring level, issues included and reporting is defined in the permit granted by the relevant authorities.

Several enterprises produce green reports of their own, as part of their overall reporting, either according to international standards or in on other formats.

GEORGIA:

Within the existing system of reporting industrial enterprises are legally obliged to complete the state inventory forms on emissions to the air and wastewater discharges annually and submit them to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP). The received data is analyzed, corrected and special documents are developed such as Annual Indices of Water Use and Annual Report on Emissions of Harmful Substances from the Point Sources of the Ambient Air Pollution. MENRP calculates emissions from transport on the basis of fuel consumption data applying internationally agreed coefficients. Finally, statistical data is sent to the National Statistics Office for publishing.

GERMANY:

Obligatory monitoring of environmental impact in enterprises to ensure compliance with emissions and other regulations.

(Voluntary) European eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) has become an effective environmental management instrument in numerous enterprises in Germany.

Standardized guidelines for companies' sustainability reports are currently being developed and used. For example the German Sustainability Code: Since its implementation in October 2011 51 companies submitted a declaration of conformity towards the German Sustainability Code. The code enjoys the support of the Federal Government and the government promotes its application by even more companies.

GREECE:

Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting is carried out mainly through implementation of EU legislation and initiatives, such as the implementation of the ELD Directive, the IPPC Directive, the EMAS Regulation and the EU waste legislation. Moreover, international standards for environmental management, such as ISO14001, are promoted and widely implemented

ISRAEL:

The need for an integrated environmental licensing law was highlighted in the wake of a 2011 government decision on the preparation of a national green growth strategy for Israel. Three round tables were set up to implement the government decision – on production, consumption and innovation – and important insights were gleaned in each of them. The Green Licensing Law will streamline existing permits into one integrated permit, thus creating one unified and simplified approval procedure. In view of the multiplicity of enterprises with significant environmental impact, each of these is currently regulated by a different permitting and licensing system, an integrated green licensing system is essential. A green licensing law would serve as a one-stop shop, providing certainty to the operator of change in the industrial sector, facilitating high environmental performance, and serving as a green track to innovation.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA:</p> <p>Because of the absence of national or international regulations that would impose reporting certain information regarding a company’s environmental impact, the level of environmental reporting for Romanian listed companies is very low. Romanian companies provide general information regarding their environmental impact (mostly in their annual reports); the information provided is generally incomplete and irrelevant for users.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Environmental monitoring and information systems in the area of environment are implemented pursuant to Act No. 275/2006 Coll. on public administration information systems, Strategy of the Sectoral information system, and Strategy of completion of the complex environmental monitoring information system in the environment (approved by the Slovak government resolution No. 7/2000). Strategy of Environmental Information System Development was approved by the Ministry of Finance in 2009.</p> <p>Environmental information system integrates information from environmental monitoring, information from environmental assessment, and spatial information on territory. Other generated information support activities of environment authorities and subjects that enforce legislation within environmental law. These include mainly the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR) and its affiliated organisations, as well as other institutions under different ministries. MoE SR and its daughter organisations maintain other databases, information systems, and internet and intranetportals to support their activities and present their outcomes.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
<p>3.4. Ensuring implementation of the ECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme</p>	
<p><i>Overall assessment of your country’s role:</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>In addition active as a reviewing country – currently in the case of Croatia.</p>

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria was reviewed twice – 1st EPR mission was carried out in 1995; 2nd EPR mission took place in 2000.

For many years Bulgaria pays voluntary contribution to the EPR programme and participates in the EPR Expert Group.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Czech expert has recently participated in the EPR of Croatia (in-kind contribution to the EfE Process).

GEORGIA:

The Second Environmental Performance Review, Georgia, was published in 2010.

GERMANY:

Germany is actively supporting the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme. A German expert is a member of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews. Moreover, Germany has been co-funding the recent Environmental Performance Reviews of Albania, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Tajikistan.

HUNGARY:

*active as a reviewer

ISRAEL:

Israel, as an OECD country, undergoes a review process by this organization. The OECD prepared its first EPR of Israel in 2011. Israel also participates as a reviewing country in reviews carried out in other member countries (Germany 2012).

KYRGYZSTAN:

С целью получения помощи в улучшении индивидуальных и коллективных показателей в вопросах экологического управления, Кыргызская Республика приняла участие в проведении двух Обзоров результативности экологической деятельности (ОПЭД).

POLAND:

Poland not actively participates in the UNECE Environment Performance Review Programme.

SWITZERLAND:

Active as a Member in the Expert Group, as donor country and reviewing country (experts)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have contributed personnel to the teams conducting the EPRs.

CAREC:

CAREC participates in the process of promoting of this Programme in Central Asian Countries

3.4.1.
***Participation in
the EPR process
as a reviewed
country in the
future***

CROATIA:

The country is being reviewed at the moment (second EPR)

FINLAND:

Finland is reviewed through OECDs Programme

GEORGIA:

Currently we are not in a position to answer

KYRGYZSTAN:

Поскольку, Обзоры результативности экологической деятельности (ОРЭД) представляют собой независимую оценку прогресса, достигнутого страной в области согласования экологических и экономических целей и задач и соблюдения международных природоохранных обязательств, Кыргызская Республика и в будущем продолжит свое участие в Программе подготовки обзоров результативности экологической деятельности.

ROMANIA:

The second EPR of Romania, published in May 2013, covers various spheres and provides a better vision of current challenges therefore it will serve as a good base for the preparation of new projects and programs on environmental protection, rational use of natural resources, and sustainable production and consumption

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

As an OECD country we have participated in the OECD EPRs

CAREC:

	CAREC is a regional organization of international character.
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<p>3.4.2. <i>Participation in the EPR process as a donor country (in-kind and/or providing financial support)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>Austria provides financial support for the EPR and participated as a reviewing country in performance reviews.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>In-kind contribution: Bulgaria is among the very few countries represented at the EPR Expert Group since its establishment in December 1997. Ms. Vanya Grigorova, currently Executive Director of the Executive Environment Agency at the MoEW, is still a member of the Group.</p> <p>Annual voluntary financial support to the EPR Programme: USD 5000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>In 2013, the Czech Republic has provided in-kind contribution – Czech expert has participated in the EPR of Croatia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>This issue has not been deliberated yet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Donor country (financial support and in-kind) and financially support of MEAs activities for the implementation of EPR recommendations (i.e, Espoo, Water, Air pollution).</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization of international character.</p>
<p>3.4.3. <i>Implementation of EPR recommendations by the reviewed country</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>The recommendations from the 1st and 2nd EPR were accomplished.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CROATIA:</p> <p>...For the previous EPR.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>It is the third year since the 2nd EPR was published. Recently the institutional and functional reinforcement process of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection has been finished and the</p>

new Ministry started the review of the document in order to categorise main recommendations identified by the EPR team members, check the implementation status, reveal achieved progress and analyse remaining gaps.

ROMANIA:

The Review, published in May 2013, concludes with a set of 39 recommendations to the Government to improve management of its environment, to better integrate the goals of sustainable development into sectoral policies, to promote greater accountability to the public and to strengthen cooperation with the international community.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We have assisted some reviewed countries implement aspects of the recommendations through our bilateral aid programs.

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character.

3.5. Raising public awareness on environmental issues

Overall assessment in your country:

AUSTRIA:

Public participation in decision making has been strongly influenced by Austria's unique "social partnership", which provides privileged access to formally recognised interest groups of enterprises, employees, and farmers. Although not part of this social partnership, active and relatively well-resourced environmental NGOs have contributed positively to decision-making processes, in some cases on the basis of explicit legal provisions. All the Länder have established environmental ombudsmen. They are independent of the government and uphold the interests of environmental protection on behalf of the local population.

Raising public awareness is also well-implemented in the water sector and air sector (measuring stations for air quality).. The public is regularly informed about activities in the water sector by press releases and via the Ministries' Website. A special focus is laid on informing and involving young people, see e.g. www.generationblue.at and the many initiatives provided on this platform;

BULGARIA:

The policy of Bulgaria for raising public awareness and culture on environmental matters and sustainable development is directed towards achieving conscious transformation in the behaviour of different social groups and making informed choices by everyone in daily life.

Different national campaigns are conducted annually on the occasion of the World Wetlands Day, the World Water Day, the Earth Hour, the International Forrest Week, the International Biodiversity Day, the World Environment Day, the Danube Day, the Mobility Week, the Black Sea Day, and the Right to Know Day etc. these campaigns include open lessons, competitions, exhibitions, cleaning and reforestation activities, forums, training seminars, roundtables and conferences for pupils, teachers, business, NGOs, and officials from municipal and state administration.

Other initiatives include:

Competition ""For a cleaner environment"" – funding of environmental projects of municipalities, schools, kindregatnes. Eligible projects envisage claning and planting trees, creating recreation and sports areas etc.

“I love nature and |I am involved” – contest for children and teenagers for drawings, short stories and articles made of recycled materials.

National Campaign ""Green Bulgaria"" – awards for the “greenest” business, the most active municipalities with EU funded projects, the “greenest” city.

GREECE:

Greece, as an EU member-state complies with all the EU legislation and commitments regarding the promotion of public awareness on environmental issues. Additionally, several national-led initiatives have been undertaken to raise public awareness on environmental issues, including, inter alia:

The establishment of the National Environmental Information Network or else, of the Electronic Environment (e-PER), which is an integrated online information system that includes processes and tools for collecting, managing and disseminating data and for exchanging information regarding environmental issues. This online system is part of a larger effort to apply information technologies to enhance state-citizen interaction.

An awareness raising programme was launched recently by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, for the programming period 2007-2013, in the framework of the Operational Programme "Environment – Sustainable Development", with a total budget of 6 million euros for, inter alia, raising public awareness on environmental issues.

Joint initiatives by the Ministries of Environment and of Education are aiming at promoting Education for Sustainable Development as a tool for enhancing public awareness on environmental protection and sustainable development principles, focusing on students and teachers, with emphasis in the Mediterranean region, through political and financial support, since 2002, to the activities of the Mediterranean NGO Network "MIO-ESCDE" and of the Mediterranean network/project "MEDIES".

ISRAEL:

In January 2011 the MoEP launched a "'Let's Think Green'" information campaign. The campaign aims to create a conceptual and behavioural change to the public of Israel. It is targeted at individuals, businesses and society, highlights the economic and environmental profit that goes hand in hand with environmental conduct. As part of the campaign, the public is presented with action steps that can save a family more than 500 NIS a month and 6,000 NIS a year. The campaign's focal topics include paper saving, green driving, responsible food purchasing, cleanliness in public areas, electricity savings, and green building. It raises the environmental problems associated with each of these fields, while providing simple environmental solutions to be implemented by the private individual. (<http://www.greenlife.co.il/english>)

The campaign of separating waste that was mentioned earlier is definitely a process of awareness rising. Along with that campaign, the MoEP is committed to campaigning against the burning of waste—which is aimed at the Arab sector due to their traditions. We also had a 2,500,000 NIS auction that supported 17 conferences and events that were carried out by local authorities and were aimed at raising awareness of our issues. During the auction and events tens of thousands of people were exposed to environmental and sustainability issues. The MoEP, in cooperation with the New Foundation for Cinema and Television, also initiated the makings of two documentaries on consumer consumption.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В Кыргызской Республике ведется формирование «Электронного правительства», с целью соблюдения одного из основных обязательств, предусмотренных Орхусской Конвенцией - обеспечения свободного доступа к экологической информации и соответственно ответственности за ее сбор и распространение. Реализация данной программы предусматривает комплекс мер по обеспечению доступа физических и юридических лиц к информационным базам деятельности государственных органов в реализацию Национальной стратегии «Информационно-коммуникационные технологии для развития Кыргызской Республики» и Закона КР «О доступе к информации, находящейся в ведении государственных органов и органов местного самоуправления Кыргызской Республики»

Принято Постановление «Об утверждении Единых требований по созданию и

поддержке веб-сайтов государственных органов и органов местного самоуправления Кыргызской Республики». В Кыргызстане основные держатели информации об окружающей среде имеют сайты, на которых постоянно выставляется и обновляется информация.

POLAND:

This area is regulated by the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Journal of Laws of 2008 No. 122, item. 1997, as amended).

ROMANIA:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change promotes a unitary, coherent environmental policy, setting own major targets in order to raise public awareness and strengthening the cooperation with the environmental non-governmental associations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

This is an on-going efforts that proceeded the EfE process and will continue regardless of the EfE process.

CAREC:

Information, awareness and capacities are key prerequisites for improving the current environmental situation in CA region. In this regard, CAREC identifies gaps in awareness raising at the levels of governments, civil society, the private sector and media. Awareness raising and the provisos on of environmental information are crosscutting activities that transcend through all of CAREC's programmes and projects and or are implemented via specific projects such as the EU funded project: "Targeted awareness raising for EU-CA partnership (AWARE)".

For information distribution, CAREC cooperates with existing informational networks in Central Asia, such as CARNet, EcoIdea and Ecois, participates on regional platforms and conferences, uses both traditional and new technologies.

GREEN LIBERTY :

MoE of Latvia and many other CEE countries have used

<p>3.5.1. Ensuring public access to environmental information</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AZERBAIJAN:</p> <p>Ecological and environmental awareness of the population in the area of environmental protection as a result of the implementation of purposeful actions aimed to the improvement of society of their rights in this area to explore, and encouraged to be involved in the solution of environmental problems in the country. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan infringe the interests of every citizen participation in public decision-making process in order to ensure the proper working towards the establishment of Aarhus Information Centers. Regional offices of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources sectors for the efficient performance of environmental awareness should be noted. The officers of the Ministry in the field of propaganda are regularly carried out educational works in the regions of the republic.</p> <p>Among institutions, organizations, educational institutions, NGOs, are read lectures about the environment, to be held meetings, propaganda posters, booklets, brochures distributed.</p> <p>Environmental calendar days of the Ministry of experienced officers, heads of departments, senior officials of the departments of Ecology and Natural Resources of the articles are published in the media, television and radio public on environmental protection, greenery, cleaning equipment and work areas, and it is important to actively participate in the calls for action performances are held. Every year there are held the international exhibition on the theme “The technologies for Khazar-environment”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>The information centres of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its territorial structures disseminate information on environment and sustainable development among pupils, students, NGOs, academia and business. The centres provide to citizens and organizations free informational materials and free access to specialized literature in the filed of environmental protection, scientific research, information from international sources, video materials, etc. possibilities for group visits of the centres are secured.</p> <p>Special attention is given to the electronic means for provision of reliable and timely information – the webpages of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its structures are constantly updated, public databases and registries are created (more than 250 public registries maintained currently). National electronic catalogue of environmental sources is published.</p> <p>Public access is ensured to a raising number of services, provided by the informational systems for monitoring of environmental components. Bulgaria is an active participant in SEIS, INSPIRE and GMES.</p> <p>Civil society, business and media can exchange information in Internet through the Channels of the Ministry of Environment and Water in Twitter, You Tube and Facebook.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Environment Protection Act, everyone has access to</p>
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available environmental information and there is not a need to prove any specific interest.

GEORGIA:

The Public Relations Service is a structural unit under the MENRP of Georgia, who is responsible for dissemination of environmental information to the public. Some structural units of the MEPNR have thematic websites that provide regularly updated environmental information as well as the information on current activities of the respective units.

On the basis of the Aarhus Centre Georgia, a new unit “Environmental Information and Education Centre” is created under the MENRP, which, along with other activities, will be engaged actively in obtaining and dissemination of environmental information throughout the country.

GERMANY:

The law transposing the Environmental Information Directive regulates public access to information on the environment. It obliges all bodies of public administration to make such data available to anyone without having a justified interest

GREECE:

The right of access to information is provided and guaranteed by the Constitution as well as by the Administrative Procedure Code.

Additionally, the Aarhus Convention was ratified in 2005 (Law 3422/12-12-05, OJG 303/A/2005) and implemented through transposition in national law of the EU Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information (Joint Ministerial Decision 11764/653/2006, OJG 327/B/17-3-06). According to the above JMD, public authorities must facilitate the access of citizens to environmental information and disclosure environmental information to interested parties upon request within specific time-frames set by law.

Finally, the “Clarity” Program was initiated in 2010 (Law 3861/2010), according to which, all Ministries are obliged to upload their decisions on the internet, with the exception of decisions containing sensitive personal data and/or information on national security. This program constitutes a major transparency tool, since the decisions of public administration cannot be implemented prior to their upload on the Clarity website. The full implementation of the Clarity program (on all public institutions, regulatory authorities and local government) will contribute substantially to the creation of a more transparent citizens-state relationship. At the same time, the compulsory uploading of all decisions by all institutions exercising public authority on the Internet would lead to the reinforcement of responsibility and accountability.

Relevant websites: www.e-per.gr, <http://aarhus.e-per.gr>,
www.opengov.gr, <http://diavgeia.gov.gr>

ISRAEL:

New Regulations under the Freedom of Information Law 1988 (Public Access to Environmental Information 2009) came into force in September 2010. The regulations were prepared pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law 1998, which determines that every public authority, as defined by the law (including all government ministries, local authorities and dozens of public bodies) must make available information on environmental quality accessible for public review. The Regulations require public authorities to make a wide range of environmental information on pollution, emissions and wastes, accessible to the public, without request or payment. The new regulations specify 22 clauses for which information has to be available on the internet, including air, water and marine pollution, waste, noise, hazardous waste, radiation, and soil contamination.

KAZAKHSTAN:

Обеспечен широкий доступ общественности к экологической информации на веб-сайтах МООС РК www.eco.gov.kz, Орхусского центра www.aarhus.kz, включая разделы «Государственного фонда экологической информации» (<http://aarhus.kz/index.php?>), «ЭкоИнфоПраво» www.ecoinfo.iacoos.kz, ИАЦ ООС www.iacoos.kz, Программы Партнерства «Зеленый мост» www.greenbridgepartnership.net, на веб-портале Государственных кадастров природных ресурсов РК www.ecokadastr.kz.

На Интернет-ресурсах размещены: реестры отчетов НИР (1992-2012 г.г.), информационных бюллетеней о состоянии ОС РК (2005-2013 г.г.), национальных докладов по Международным экологическим Конвенциям (1998-2012 г.г.); нормативные акты, программные документы РК, обзоры, новости, материалы совещаний, форумов.

Нормативные правовые акты в области охраны окружающей среды размещены на веб-сайте «ЭкоИнфоПраво» (<http://ecoinfo.iacoos.kz/>).

Обеспечена техническая и информационная поддержка веб-сайта Орхусского центра www.aarhus.kz, размещено 446 новостей, в 13 разделах по вопросам международного права представлены 139 документов. В разделе Международное сотрудничество, создан подраздел Национальные доклады по природоохранным конвенциям. В целом за 1 полугодие 2013 г. Веб-сайт Орхусского центра посетили более 45126 пользователей.

Согласно заявкам общественности в 1 полугодии 2013 года предоставлены 393 материала в области ООС из Государственного фонда экологической информации.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В целях информирования общественности о деятельности Государственного агентства охраны окружающей среды и лесного

хозяйства Кыргызской Республики, при поддержке ПРООН Кыргызстан, разработан официальный сайт Госагентства (www.nature.kg). На сайте представлена информация о структуре ведомства, о состоянии окружающей среды, о приоритетах и результатах деятельности в области экологической политики, законодательства, международного и регионального сотрудничества. На сайте ведется лента новостей и представлена информация о деятельности Госагентства, предоставлен перечень услуг, предоставляемый гражданам.

В целях привлечения общественности участвовать, с применением электронных средств, в процессе принятия решений по экологическим вопросам на официальном сайте Госагентства размещаются разрабатываемые проекты Законов, стратегии и другие документы. Так же, ведется их рассылка по электронной почте для учета замещения и предложений общественности.

MONACO:

Le public dispose d'un accès libre et protégé à l'ensemble des documents produits ou détenus par l'Administration. Le Projet de Code de l'Environnement assurera un libre accès du public à l'ensemble des données environnementales.

POLAND:

Above mentioned provision gives the right to access environmental information.

ROMANIA:

Environmental information is available to the public by means of computer telecommunication and / or electronic technology, by posts on websites or other means of communication (e.g. radio and television, newspaper announcement, public debate). Moreover, public authorities are obliged to respond to applicants for environmental information required officially or requested in writing.

SLOVAKIA:

Public access to information on the environment in Slovakia and abroad is ensured mainly through the web-site www.enviroportal.sk administered by the Slovak Environment Agency. The information comes from the Slovak Ministry of Environment, professional organizations, NGOs and from public. The information provided a major contribution to raising environmental awareness of the population.

Because the portal is a basic platform for publishing outputs of information systems, it provides authorized and verified overviews in a wide range of environmental topics, there are two possible ways to get them:

- according to the type of user (Agenda) and
- according to the type of required information.

The role of bookmarks Agenda is to provide citizens, businesses and public administration with targeted information. In addition, users can choose from environmental topics (climate change, waste, contaminated sites, water, air, energy etc.), information and monitoring systems (EnviroGeoPortal, Catalogue of objects) and documents leading to general information on the subject. At the same time, this portal references to institutions, organizations and companies that deal with this theme more deeply. For visitor this portal provides news, calendar of upcoming environmental events, jobs searching and calls for project proposals.

UKRAINE:

Обеспечение доступа общественности к экологической информации в соответствии с требованиями Закона Украины "О доступе к публичной информации", который закрепляет гарантии права на доступ к публичной информации и определяет порядок доступа к информации. При обеспечении требований Закона Украины "О доступе к публичной информации" Минприроды Украины был издан ряд нормативно-правовых актов, направленных на обеспечение исполнения требований Закона Украины «О доступе к публичной информации» (разработаны и утверждены формы запросов на информацию, распорядителем которой является Минприроды, регламентировано процедуру подачи запроса на информацию и ее получение, определен порядок составления, подачи запросов в устной, письменной или иной форме, утвержден перечень видов экологической информации, осуществления систематического и оперативного обнародования информации на сайте Минприроды Украины)...

CAREC:

In order to assist countries to comply with the Aarhus Convention (1998) and improve the quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information, CAREC is promoting the concept of SEIS.

3.5.2. Ensuring public participation in environmental-decision making

AUSTRIA:

One example: The national river basin management plan is the main instrument in the water sector. Public participation in all decisive phases is ensured, stakeholders are taken on board when important water management decisions are taken.

AZERBAIJAN:

In the web-site of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources are placed information on holding meetings, thereby providing the population with necessary information. Under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as NGOs, public representatives has been established Community Environmental Council. The protection and improvement of the environment, environmental security and sustainable use of nature in the projects, proposals, programs and other measures for the implementation of the cooperation with non-governmental organizations operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan must, as well as information on issues related to the United Nations Environment public participation and access to justice on the (Aarhus) Convention, established under the provisions of the Ministry in order to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of recommendations in the form of the assembly is operating on a voluntary basis. The main directions of the board of environmental protection, environmental safety, and public opinion in the field of sustainable use of nature by studying the proposals, programs, normative legal acts and to prepare the people of the flock in the direction of environmental propaganda, environmental protection, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in the field of, to fund the expansion of information on the environment, and to make proposals for ensuring the efficient use of environmental measures include other joint. Public participation in the decision-making process of public interest in order to provide citizens with the Ministry's website has a specific section for consideration of suggestions and opinions. In order to inform the citizens about implementation of any project is posted the announcements.

BELARUS:

При Минприроды создан и функционирует Общественный координационный экологический совет (ежеквартально).

На официальном сайте Минприроды создан раздел «Проекты нормативных правовых актов в области охраны окружающей среды» в котором размещаются проекты нормативных правовых актов для широкого обсуждения общественности (http://www.minpriroda.gov.by/ru/legislation/new_url_464490007).

BULGARIA:

Public participation in decision making for certain activities listed in Annex I of the Aarhus Convention.

The Environment Protection Act provides obligatory EIA for investment proposals for construction, activities and technologies in Annex № 1 thereto (full compliance with Annex I of the Convention).

The EIA procedure envisages the project developer shall inform in written the competent authorities and the public concerned for the investment proposal at the earliest possible stage. The developer shall consult the competent authorities, other specialized agencies and the affected public.

Public discussion of the EIA report shall be organized jointly with concerned municipalities. The discussion is open to all interested to all individuals and legal, including representatives of the competent authority, the territorial administration of the executive authorities, public organizations and citizens.

2. Public participation in decision making for plans, programmes and policies related to the environment.

Pursuant to the Environment Protection Act, the Ecological Assessment procedure envisages the developer of a plan or programme shall organize public consultations with stakeholders.

3. Public participation in the development of legislation.

All drafts of strategic documents and legislative acts are published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the centralized web gateway for public consultation of the Council of Ministers, which serves the entire public administration, for comments and suggestions from the public. Separately discussions are held with the participation of the public in the form of workshops, conferences, round tables, etc.

GEORGIA:

Public participation in environmental decision making is considered in the process of issuing environmental impact permits. Not only NGOs but also any interested party has a right to participate in the process. The obligatory components of the process are: submission of the documents for public examination and announcement of availability, receiving comments, conduct the public hearing and publishing a decision. An administrative decision made under a breach of process is considered to be canceled. Everyone has a right to claim against such decision and to reach its cancellation.

GERMANY:

Ensuring public participation is an important issue in environmental decision making and is widely implemented for all projects and plans having significant effects on the environment.

GREECE:

Since 2009, almost every piece of draft legislation, or even policy initiative by the government, is posted in opengov.gr, open to public consultation. Citizens and organisations can post their comments and suggestions article-by-article. All submitted comments are gathered and

assessed by competent authorities and in many cases are incorporated in the final regulations. As of October 2009, when the first deliberation took place, hundreds of acts (draft laws, executive technical regulations, JMD and policy initiatives) of all Ministries have been uploaded on the “opengov” site for public consultation, and more than 80,000 number of citizens’ comments have been received.

ISRAEL:

The Planning and Building Law of 1965 regulates all building and land use in Israel and establishes both an institutional and substantive framework for environmental planning. The law provides for a public notification and participation process with respect to land use planning. The public is informed of schemes presented to regional and local planning authorities through public notices appearing in the legal gazette, in offices of the local authority, or in daily newspapers. The public is entitled to inspect land use plans and submit objections during the deposition period. The law also provides for an appeal process if an objection is rejected.

On May 14, 2003, an important landmark on the path toward sustainable development occurred in the form of a government decision, which determined, inter alia, that the policy of the Government of Israel will be based on the principles of sustainable development and that each government ministry will draft a strategic plan for sustainable development. The government decision includes both specific sections, which relate to the tasks of the different ministries in drafting their strategic plans for sustainable development, and general provisions. The Strategic Plan for sustainable development will be presented to the public during the preparation to participate in the decision making process. At the end of the program a plan shall be submitted to the parliament by the minister and brought to the attention of the public.

KAZAKHSTAN:

Орхусская конвенция определяет основные категории решений, на которые могут или должны распространяться положения об участии общественности:

1. Оформление разрешений в области, подлежащих процедуре «Оценка воздействия на окружающую среду» (далее - ОВОС) (Статья 6.1. (а) Орхусской конвенции и соответствующее национальное законодательство относительно ОВОС);
2. Оформление лицензий на оказание услуг в области охраны окружающей среды.

Статья 6.4 Орхусской конвенции налагает на государство-участника обязательство обеспечивать участие общественности уже на самом раннем этапе, когда открыты все возможности для рассмотрения различных вариантов и когда может быть обеспечено эффективное участие общественности.

Глава 1, Статья 5 Экологического кодекса Республики Казахстан относит презумпцию экологической опасности планируемой

	<p>хозяйственной и иной деятельности и обязательность оценки воздействия на окружающую среду и здоровье населения.</p> <p>Право физических лиц и общественных объединений принимать участие в обсуждении проектов нормативных правовых актов на этапе их подготовки и представлять свои замечания разработчикам, в процессе подготовки планов и программ, в процессе принятия государственными органами решений по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды, закреплено в статье 13 и статье 14 Экологического кодекса РК.</p> <p>Одним из этапов процедуры подготовки и принятия решений по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды, является государственная экологическая экспертиза. Согласно статьи 60 Экологического кодекса предусмотрено проведение Общественной экологической экспертизы, предметом которой является соблюдение общественных интересов по сохранению благоприятной для жизни и здоровья граждан окружающей среды.</p> <p>Механизмы привлечения и участия общественности предусмотрены и в других законодательных актах РК: в законе «Об архитектурной, градостроительной и строительной деятельности в Республике Казахстан» (ст. 13); в законе «О техническом регулировании» (статья 19); в «Водном кодексе» (ст. 62 и 63); в «Земельном кодексе» (ст. 15 ч. 2).</p> <p>Для дальнейшей имплементации в законодательство РК положений Орхусской конвенции необходимо разработать регламент участия общественности в процессе принятия решений, своевременного и эффективного информирования; детально прописать процедуры по принятию решений по конкретным видам планируемой хозяйственной деятельности; процессе подготовки планов и программ; разработать механизмы учета общественного мнения на стадии принятия окончательного решения; в период проведения государственной экологической экспертизы, предусмотреть и другие возможные формы общественного участия; предоставить общественности более свободные временные рамки проведения общественной экологической экспертизы. Разработать и законодательно закрепить механизмы уведомления общественности о завершении государственной экологической экспертизы и предоставления доступа к информации по объекту экспертизы.</p> <p>Для обеспечения доступа общественности к принятию решений формируется база данных о прошедших и предстоящих общественных слушаниях, которые предоставляются областными департаментами, Комитетом экологического регулирования и контроля МООС, по вопросам проведения государственной экологической экспертизы - 34 общественных слушаний; обсуждения плана природоохранных мероприятий - 70 общественных слушаний. На веб-сайте www.aarhus.kz размещены протокола по данным общественным слушаниям.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KYRGYZSTAN:</p> <p>Осуществляется взаимодействие с НПО и общественностью по</p>
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	<p>экологическим вопросам, вовлечение в процесс экологической экспертизы и принятия решений.</p> <p>Осуществляются общественная экологическая экспертиза, общественный экоконтроль и экомониторинг.</p> <p>ГАООСНЛХ при разработке планов, программ, стратегий и политик осуществляет сбор необходимых предложений путем информирования о готовящихся разработках и приглашению к партнерству. Так совместно с НПО и общественностью были подготовлены Стратегия Развития Страны, Национальный план мер по усилению правоприменения и управления в лесном секторе, Национальный план действий по осуществлению Стокгольмской конвенции, Экологический кодекс, Лесной кодекс, Концепция экологической безопасности, Общий технический регламент «Об экологической безопасности», а также ряд НПА.</p> <p>В Кыргызской Республике наряду с государственной экологической экспертизой осуществляется общественная экологическая экспертиза. Одним из основных принципов Закона КР «Об экологической экспертизе» является принцип учета общественного мнения. Общественная экологическая экспертиза является одной из форм проведения консультаций с общественностью.</p> <p>В реализацию Указа Президента Кыргызской Республики от 29 сентября 2010 года № 212 «О совершенствовании взаимодействия органов государственного управления с гражданским обществом», в целях расширения, нормативного закрепления и внедрения в практику форм взаимодействия государственных органов, органов местного самоуправления и институтов гражданского общества (общественных объединений, ассоциаций, союзов и других) в Кыргызской Республике, а также обеспечения прозрачности процедур принятия решений и их реализации с учетом интересов общественности, созданы Общественные Наблюдательные Советы при министерствах и ведомствах КР, в том числе и при Государственном агентстве охраны окружающей среды и лесного хозяйства создан Общественный Наблюдательный Совет. В состав Совета при Госагентстве вошли 13 представителей гражданского общества, научных кругов, бизнес-ассоциаций, профессиональных и отраслевых союзов, экспертного сообщества из сфер, соприкасающихся с деятельностью Госагентства.</p> <p>НПО принимает активное участие в реализации Инициативы прозрачности добывающей отрасли, Интегрированной стратегии Центральной Азии по устойчивому управлению земельными ресурсами, Ассоциации водопользователей, Сельское общественное объединение потребителей питьевой воды, Международный деловой Совет.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>Polish national law takes into account public participation issues.</p> <p>It should be noted that one of the compulsory elements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, under which the EIA report shall be required is providing the opportunity for public</p>
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participation in the proceedings. According to current acts of law within a specified period, any interested party can read the EIA report and submit its comments and proposals before a decision for the project is granted. This procedure is carried out when issuing the decision on the environmental conditions for the projects that may have a significant impact on the environment.

ROMANIA:

Part of legislation concerning public participation in environmental decision-making was in place as early as the last EPR, and further developed and strengthened through the adoption of key pieces of legislations since then. These include Law No. 86 of 2000; GD No. 1076 of 2004 on the Establishment Procedure for Environmental Assessment for Plans and Programmes; GD No. 445 of 2009 on Impact Assessment of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment; and MO No. 135 of 2010 on Implementing Methodology for Assessing Environmental Impact on Public and Private Projects. These legislative instruments establish the detailed methodology on how the environmental impact assessment studies are drawn up; at what stage the public may participate; and in which way, including public debate. NGOs participate in environmental impact assessment procedures by formulating comments/opinions in the procedural stages of EIA; submitting requests for information regarding performance of the procedures completed; and requesting the documents listed on the basis for the issuing of regulatory acts.

SLOVAKIA:

Public participation in consultation process of the river basin management plans (Water Framework Directive)

UKRAINE:

Участие общественности в принятии природоохранных решений обеспечиваются администрированием рубрики ""Общественное обсуждение"" на сайте Минприроды Украины, в которой размещаемые проекты нормативно-правовых актов для обеспечения участия общественности в обсуждении экологически значимых решений.

CAREC:

Small basin councils respectively local stakeholders committees, established by CAREC in several small transboundary watersheds of Central Asia, that consist of representatives from local authorities, local communities, water users, farmers, NGOs and others, play a role of mechanisms for practical public participation in environmental decision

	making at the local level.
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3.5.3. Ensuring public access to environmental justice

AZERBAIJAN:

Azerbaijani law regulates the right of everyone to the judicial protection of their rights. For example, Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on appeal to the court decisions and actions (inaction) of violating the rights and freedom of citizens stated that if citizens are considered a violation of their rights and freedoms as a result of decisions and actions (or inaction) of state organs, enterprises and officials may apply to the court. The legislation also provides requirements for full compensation. So, on the basis of the Civil Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan person whose right has been violated may demand full compensation for damages, unless the law or the contract does not cover damage in smaller sizes (see 21 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan).

The public has a right to:

- require the elimination of an administrative or judicial decisions on the construction, reconstruction and commissioning of enterprises, facilities and other environmentally harmful objects that have a negative impact on human life and the environment, as well as the limitations of temporary suspension of natural and legal persons and the elimination of legal persons (Article 6 of the Law on Environmental Protection

- to bring to justice those responsible organizations,

officials and private citizens who have violated the law on environmental protection

- require the elimination of the administrative and judicial limitations of temporary and permanent stop location, construction, reconstruction and commissioning, including adverse affects on the environment and human health, economic activity harmful enterprises, buildings and installations

legal action for compensation for damage caused to health and property of citizens as a result of violation of the legislation on the protection of the environment. (Article 7 of the Law on the Protection of the Environment)

BELARUS:

Разработаны проекты Закона Республики Беларусь по вопросам участия общественности в принятии решений по видам деятельности, касающимся окружающей среды, и доступа общественности к экологической информации и постановления Совета Министров Республики Беларусь «Об утверждении Положения о порядке проведения общественных обсуждений экологически значимых решений».

BULGARIA:

Pursuant to the Access to Public Information Act the decision for provision or denial to access to information or shall be subject to court appeal. Bulgarian legislation is in full compliance with the Aarhus Convention and allows anybody who considers that their request for access to information is not considered in accordance with Article 4 of the

Convention, to have access to a review procedure. Courts implement effectively these provisions and there is established court practice.

The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria sets the right to clean environment, thus providing the material reasons for everyone to participate in the process of appealing any decision, action or inaction in court. Court practice shows that legal entities, including NGOs that meet the criteria of national legislation, namely, are duly registered, have the opportunity to participate in the trial.

GEORGIA:

According to the National legislation, any person may claim against the public authority both to a higher public authority and after that to the court, in case of violation of his/her right with regard to the environment.

GREECE:

The right to judicial protection is stipulated on article 20 par. 1 of the Greek Constitution.

Upon the applicant's request, the president of the court may exempt poor litigants from the obligation to pay court fees for the submission of their application, if it is deemed that the applicant is in poor financial condition. In addition, Law 3226/2004 (OJG A24/2004) provides for legal aid for poor litigants in cases of civil, commercial and criminal law.

Furthermore, the Greek Ombudsman is a specialized constitutionally independent administrative authority (founded in October 1998 and operating under the provisions of Law 3094/2003) with, inter alia, environmental responsibilities. The Ombudsman investigates individual administrative actions or omissions of material actions taken by government departments or public services that infringe upon the personal rights or violate the legal interests of individuals or legal entities. The Ombudsman provides its services to the public free of charge and is an option available to citizens prior to their decision to resort to court for resolving their disputes.

ISRAEL:

See freedom of information and public participation.

KAZAKHSTAN:

Для обеспечения доступ к правосудию ведется работа Верховного Суда РК по реализации положений Орхусской конвенции. Верховным Судом совместно с международными экспертами регулярно проводятся республиканские и региональные конференции, круглые столы, семинары, тренинги о применении в судебной практике норм международных соглашений, в том числе положений Орхусской конвенции. На мероприятиях принимают участие представители коллегий адвокатов, судов, органов прокуратуры, Министерства охраны окружающей среды, Орхусских

	<p>центров и экологических общественных объединений.</p> <p>В местных судах и Верховном Суде применяется специализация судей по рассмотрению экологических споров, изучается и обобщается судебная практика по применению судами экологического законодательства, в том числе по искам общественности.</p> <p>С 2007 года на Web-сайте Верховного Суда в разделе «Международное сотрудничество» открыта страница: «Реализация положений Орхусской конвенции», в которой размещены: нормативные правовые акты по вопросам окружающей среды; доклады о работе совещания сторон Европейской Экономической Комиссии о доступе к информации, участии общественности в процессе принятия решений и доступе к правосудию по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды; пособия по применению Орхусской конвенции; статистические сведения о рассмотрении судами исков, связанных с охраной окружающей среды и другие полезные для судей и общественности материалы; результаты ежегодного мониторинга судебных актов по спорам о доступе к информации, участии общественности в процессе принятия решений и доступе к правосудию по вопросам окружающей среды.</p> <p>Вопросы по изучению положений Орхусской конвенции включены в учебные программы работы Верховного Суда по прохождению стажировки судей и Института правосудия для магистрантов учебного заведения.</p> <p>Судьями Верховного Суда в 2008 году разработано Учебно-практическое пособие по применению судами Казахстана положений Орхусской конвенции, которое было издано на русском и казахском языках и передано во все библиотеки судов и Судебной академии.</p> <p>В СМИ регулярно публикуются материалы на экологическую тему, в республиканской газете «Юридическая Газета» периодически выходит рубрика «Судье на заметку» по вопросам применения судами экологического законодательства.</p> <p>Верховным Судом совместно с уполномоченным органом по ведению правовой статистики принимаются меры по оптимизации сбора и учету статистических сведений судебных дел по искам и заявлениям физических лиц и общественных экологических организаций в области окружающей среды. При этом ведется сверка статистических данных с экологическими общественными объединениями в порядке общественного контроля, что позволяет подвергнуть мониторингу все судебные акты по экологическим спорам без исключения.</p> <p>В целях обеспечения единообразного толкования и правильного применения судами экологического законодательства при рассмотрении гражданских дел в сфере окружающей среды на ноябрь текущего года запланирована подготовка новой редакции нормативного постановления Верховного Суда «О практике применения судами законодательства по спорам в сфере окружающей среды».</p>
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	<p>Разработан и утвержден законопроект «О внесении изменений и дополнений в некоторые законодательные акты Республики Казахстан по вопросам совершенствования системы предоставления гарантированной государством юридической помощи», что отвечает положениям Орхусской конвенции.</p> <p>Для обеспечения доступа общественности во всех судебных инстанциях применяется автоматическое распределение судебных дел среди судей, 326 залов судебных заседаний или 29 % оснащены аудио-видео фиксацией судебных процессов, позволяющих вести по делу протокол в цифровом формате, 273 судов или 72,2 % оснащены информационными киосками, стороны судебного процесса могут отслеживать графики рассмотрения судебных дел, результаты судебного процесса из персональных компьютеров, начал функционировать так называемый Е-суд, т.е. электронное правосудие, благодаря которому можно посредством портала электронного Правительства направить в суд иск, получить копию протокола судебного заседания, направить для рассмотрения замечания на протокол судебного заседания и получить результаты рассмотрения в электронном формате.</p> <p>Согласно официальным статистическим данным, в производство специализированного межрайонного экономического суда города Астаны в 2010 году поступило 4 исковых заявления, связанных с охраной окружающей среды, в 2011 году - 2, в 2012 году – 14. Из них за истекший год по существу рассмотрено - 7, оставлено без рассмотрения - 3, возвращено -1, остаток на конец отчетного периода составил - 2. За анализируемый период в производство других судов города Астаны исковые заявления, связанные с нарушением экологического законодательства не поступали.</p> <p>Согласно статистическим данным базы электронной системы ЕАИАС в рассматриваемом периоде всего по республике судами первой инстанции по искам, связанным с охраной окружающей среды окончено производством:</p> <p>в 2010 году - 602 дела, с вынесением решения рассмотрено 532 дела, из них с удовлетворением иска вынесено 498 решений или 93,6% от общего числа решений;</p> <p>в 2011 году - 795 дел, с вынесением решения рассмотрено 677 дел, из них с удовлетворением иска вынесено 653 решений или 96,5% от общего числа решений;</p> <p>в 2012 году - 646 дел, с вынесением решения рассмотрено 538 дел, из них с удовлетворением иска вынесено 518 решений или 96,3% от общего числа решений.</p> <p>Следует отметить, что количество окончанных за рассматриваемый период дел по искам, связанным с охраной окружающей среды составляет незначительную часть от общего количества рассмотренных гражданских дел (0,14%). Вместе с тем общая сумма, подлежащая взысканию в доход государства за рассматриваемый период по решениям судов, составила значительные суммы, что свидетельствует о важности данной категории дел.</p> <p>Качество рассмотрения дел по спорам обобщаемой категории</p>
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характеризуется следующими показателями. Всего в 2010 году вышестоящими инстанциями отменено 0,4% от общего числа решений вынесенных по делам обобщаемой категории, в 2011 году – 0,6%, в 2012 году – 0,2%.

На изучение в Верховный Суд всего поступило 849 дел указанной категории, в том числе дела по искам общественности по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В Кыргызской Республике проведен ряд тренингов для судей по адаптированному к условиям Кыргызской Республики модулю «Учебно-практическое пособие по применению судами Республики Казахстан положений Орхусской Конвенции».

Данное учебно-практическое пособие подготовлено на основе анализа законодательства Кыргызской Республики, международного опыта по применению Орхусской конвенции, связанного с нарушением прав на доступ к информации, участие общественности в процессе принятия решений и доступ к правосудию по вопросам, касающимся окружающей среды, возмещение вреда в рамках требований положений Орхусской Конвенции.

Для удобства пользователя в учебном пособии каждому из отдельных элементов Орхусской Конвенции, видов судебных дел, различающихся по содержанию требований, посвящена специальная глава. В них приводятся нормы материального и процессуального права, особенности порядка рассмотрения соответствующих дел.

Предназначается оно для проведения обучений судей и работников судебной системы в порядке повышений квалификаций по вопросам экологического права с акцентом на права общественности в области охраны окружающей среды.

Изложений материалы могут представлять интерес и для более широкого круга субъектов, активно вовлеченных в деятельности по обеспечению реализации права граждан на благоприятную для жизни и здоровья окружающую среду.

Рекомендована в качестве учебно –практического пособия для судей и судебных работников, работников правоохранительных органов, неправительственных организаций по вопросам применения Орхусской Конвенции.

MONACO:

Le projet de code de l'environnement comporte des dispositions relatives à la responsabilité environnementale et à la réparation du préjudice environnemental.

Le libre accès à la justice est, par ailleurs, assuré à tous.

POLAND:

	<p>The access to justice in environment is regulated in above mentioned provision.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA:</p> <p>A number of legislative acts setting requirements for access to justice on environmental matters have been introduced. These include Governmental Emergency Ordinance No. 68 of 2007 on Environmental Liability With Regard to the Prevention and Remediating of Environmental Damage; Law No. 86 of 2000; GD No. 1213 of 2006 on the Framework Procedure for Environmental Impact Assessment for Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment; Governmental Decision No. 445 of 2009 on Impact Assessment of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment; and Law No. 554 of 2004 on Administrative Disputes.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is not implementing activities in this field.</p>

3.6. Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness

Overall assessment in your country:

AUSTRIA:

The Austrian population appears to be more satisfied with environmental quality than the European population on average. The burden of disease attributable to the environment is among the lowest in the European region. We have undertaken a series of initiatives to measure well-being. There is evidence that school education is a significant source of environmental knowledge. This is related to a long-standing policy of promoting environmental education, particularly through the network of “eco-schools”.

BULGARIA:

At present, there is no unified and comprehensive strategic framework at national level for transition to green economy.

Some initiatives are implemented that contribute to integrating environmental considerations, to green economic growth and to increasing resource efficiency in a number of sector policies:

- Promoting green jobs – this measure envisages for each opened green job, the employer to receive grants for the time during which a person is at work, but for no more than 12 months. The definition of green jobs is based on a list of economic activities for which the creation of green jobs is supported , as well as certification and registration of employers under environmental management schemes and systems (ISO Standard 14001, eco-labelling, EMAS, etc.).

- National Action Plan for the promotion of green procurement (2012-2014) was adopted. The plan sets obligatory objectives for all governmental institutions for the procurement of environmentally friendly goods and services (for local authorities the objectives are advisable)

GEORGIA:

Through joining to number of international initiatives/programmes Georgia tries to promote linkages between environment, economic development and social well-being.

GERMANY:

Environmental and climate policies have helped promote economic growth, innovation and job creation.

The National Sustainability Strategy, adopted in 2002, sets out quantified goals for 21 key areas related to sustainable development including respective timelines for fulfilment and measurable indicators. Progress is regularly reviewed by the German government and the Federal Statistical Office. Revision and extension of strategic targets towards sustainable development beyond the goals established in 2002 is currently on-going.

As of May 2009, ministries are also required to complete an impact assessment regarding sustainability for each draft law or ordinance. The results are reviewed by the Parliamentary

Advisory Council on Sustainable Development.

GREECE:

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change implements the Green Growth model of development that respects the environment and sees it as a source of growth, rather than a drain of development. The three key priorities for Green Growth are climate & energy, the changing patterns of production and consumption and the conservation of natural resources. The Programme of Development Interventions for the Real, has the potential to contribute effectively in promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well – being and competitiveness. As mentioned before, the main axes of this Programme are:

- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Nature- Waters)
- Upgrading the Quality of Life- Protection of Public Health
- Moving to a competitive low-carbon consumption (energy efficiency, promote renewable energy / natural gas strengthening energy infrastructure)
- Strengthening institutions and mechanisms of environmental governance (spatial planning, environmental awareness and education, enhancing public access to environmental information)

Additionally, many relevant actions/activities are implemented under the Programme co-financed by the EU funded programmes (especially National Strategic Reference Framework) or national funds (e.g. “Green Fund”).

Finally, the development strategy of the Ministry for period 2014-2020 is also based in the model of Green Growth by combining the environmental policy with economic and social well- being as well as with the competitiveness.

ISRAEL:

In May 2009, Israel's finance minister joined ministers from OECD countries in signing a Green Growth Declaration, which tasks these countries with developing a strategy that brings together economic, environmental, technological, financial, and developmental aspects into one comprehensive framework. In October 2011, the government approved a decision to formulate a national green growth strategy.

In February 2012, Israeli stakeholders gathered at the country's first National Green Growth Conference, where discussion focused on how Israel's economy could be based on green growth that does not deplete Israel's natural resources for future generations. The conference was organized by the MoEP and by ""Calcalist""- Israel's financial daily newspaper; it highlighted the link between economy and environment. About 1,000 people from all sectors participated, as did government representatives. The conference helped broaden the public discourse on green growth and highlighted its inherent economic, social and environmental advantages.

The MoEP and Israel Central Bureau of Statistics has prepared a publication of well being in Israel which present data for the years 2000-2010 on a wide range of indicators. The publication was released at the end of 2012. The CBS and the MoEP are working together along with the Prime Minister's Office on updating these indicators and on selecting new indicators relevant for Israel for the following years. These ""beyond GDP"" indicators will serve as input to policy making processes.

KYRGYZSTAN:

В преддверии Всемирного Саммита по устойчивому развитию РИО + 20 (Рио-де-Жанейро, 20-22 июня 2012 г.), сквозной темой которого стала «зеленая экономика» в контексте устойчивого развития, искоренения бедности и институционализации данного подхода развития, в стране был подготовлен ряд важных документов, отражающих основные приоритеты и задачи страны.

На Сегменте Высокого уровня Руководитель делегации - Вице-премьер министр Кыргызской Республики Оторбаев Дж.К. отметил ряд вызовов, стоящих перед страной, отметив также, что страна готова придерживаться «зеленого» вектора развития.

Позиция Кыргызстана, озвученная на Саммите Рио+20, стала итогом совместной работы государственных органов, экспертного сообщества, институтов гражданского общества.

Учитывая ключевые рекомендации ООН, связанные с вопросами содействия увеличению объемов капиталовложений и финансирования на цели устойчивого развития горных стран, Кыргызская Республика с учетом внутреннего потенциала и национальных приоритетов развития, обратилось к международному донорскому сообществу с предложениями о поддержке развития системного и институционального потенциала для перехода к зеленой экономике как вектору устойчивого развития для интегрирования системы мониторинга и показателей зеленой экономики в стратегии развития страны.

21 января 2013 года на втором заседании Национального совета по устойчивому развитию Указом Президента была утверждена Национальная стратегия устойчивого развития до 2017 года. Таким образом, “ Кыргызская Республика взяла курс к переходу на новую для Кыргызстана модель устойчивого развития.

Министерством экономики КР отмечено, что устойчивость невозможна без социального и экологического измерений экономического роста. Акцент на качественных изменениях в развитии, а не на количественном росте ради роста. Вопрос модернизации кыргызской экономики для перехода к “зеленому” развитию только предстоит оценить. “Зеленое” развитие экономики представляется перспективным вектором для устойчивого развития Кыргызстана в долгосрочной перспективе. Для этого у нас есть все предпосылки».

Во-первых, мы располагаем огромным потенциалом природных ресурсов для низкоуглеродного развития (гидроэнергетика); второе, приоритеты «зеленой» экономики (энергетика и сельское хозяйство) в совокупности с водными ресурсами являются уже сегодня приоритетами и основой экономики страны; уровень бедности населения горных территорий (свыше 50%) и социальная напряженность могут быть снижены за счет создания «зеленых» рабочих мест.

POLAND:

Poland participated in plenty of events concerning implementation of sustainable development and its three dimensions: economic, social and environment. Poland is the member of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

SLOVAKIA:

The Slovak Republic considers all aspects of policies in the economy including the impact on environment.

SWITZERLAND:

Well implemented but as it is an ongoing process it is never completely achieved !

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

This is an on-going efforts that proceeded the EfE process and will continue regardless of the EfE process.

**3.6.1.
Mainstreaming
the
environment
into economic
development**

BULGARIA:

At present, there is no unified and comprehensive strategic framework at national level for transition to green economy.

Some initiatives are implemented that contribute to integrating environmental considerations, to green economic growth and to increasing resource efficiency in a number of sector policies:

- Promoting green jobs – this measure envisages for each opened green job, the employer to receive grants for the time during which a person is at work, but for no more than 12 months. The definition of green jobs is based on a list of economic activities for which the creation of green jobs is supported , as well as certification and registration of employers under environmental management schemes and systems (ISO Standard 14001, eco-labelling, EMAS, etc.).

- National Action Plan for the promotion of green procurement (2012-2014) was adopted. The plan sets obligatory objectives for all governmental institutions for the procurement of environmentally friendly goods and services (for local authorities the objectives are advisable)

GERMANY:

The Memorandum for a Green Economy is an example for mainstreaming the environment into economic development in Germany. It constitutes a combination of growth, innovation and sustainability in the social market economy. The Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) and the Federation of German Industries (BDI) promoted their joint memorandum on the occasion of the Rio 2012 conference. With this, the BMU and the BDI affirm their commitment to the principle of sustainable development as the basis to guide political and economic activity. Efforts toward sustainability entail finding a balance between economic, ecological and social interests.

GREECE:

In the context of integrating environmental concerns into economic development, key accomplishments include the elaboration of the national

sustainable development strategy, the strengthening of the environmental impact assessment process and the establishment of a strategic environmental assessment process. Environmental objectives have been largely integrated into EU funded programmes and, lately, the energy intensity of the economy has been considerably reduced and important steps have been taken to promote reliance on natural gas.

ISRAEL:

The National green growth action plan was presented to the Government in September 2012. It assesses the economic potential of a transition to a green economy and recommends measures for implementation, expected to add billions of shekels to the Israeli economy in addition to saving billions more, which are currently invested in preventing environmental and health hazards (at the cost of 580 million NIS over 5 years). The recommendations relate to the following subjects:

- Removing obstacles to green growth: mapping and removing environmentally harmful subsidies; dealing with regulatory failures.
- Encouraging cleantech industries: developing new industry and creating markets for green products and services; accelerating green innovation; developing the cleantech industry including professional training; Increasing Israel's competitiveness and promotion of export.
- Green employment
- Transition to sustainable industry: promotion of clean production; implementation of efficiency surveys in production, energy and water processes and in environmental industrial design for small and medium businesses; promotion of green industrial zones; increased use of eco-efficiency indicators and environmental management systems and integrating environmental legislation and licensing procedures (IPPC).
- Transition to a more environmentally friendly business sector.
- Transition to green consumption, including a boost to green public procurement; green taxation of products and anti-greenwash measures.

MONACO:

Le Gouvernement a mis en place, en février 2012, un nouveau barème de subventions pour les véhicules propres avec comme objectif de l'adapter à l'évolution des versions hybrides disponibles sur le marché tout en écartant les véhicules les plus polluants. Il s'agissait également de tenir compte des dispositifs incitatifs dans les pays voisins et de continuer à soutenir le véhicule électrique particulièrement adapté aux déplacements en ville.

L'Etat favorise ainsi la promotion des véhicules propres ou peu polluants en subventionnant l'achat d'un véhicule électrique (30% du prix d'achat plafonné à 9 000 Euros) et la gratuité de l'estampille annuelle pour les véhicules électriques ainsi que la gratuité du stationnement en surface.

Pour les véhicules hybrides, la prime forfaitaire dépend de la technologie d'hybridation et du niveau d'émission de CO2. La prime variable (de

	<p>1500 à 5500 euros) exclut les véhicules qui émettent plus de 150g de CO2 par km.</p> <p>Dans le cadre des actions du Plan Energie Climat de la Principauté, le Gouvernement Princier a mis en place deux subventions en vue de soutenir la rénovation énergétique des bâtiments domaniaux et du secteur privé :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les systèmes de production thermique à partir de l'énergie solaire (panneaux solaires thermiques), en remplacement de chaudières fioul et/ou en complément de chaudières gaz ou bois sont subventionnés. La subvention s'élève à 30% de l'installation, plafonnée à 30 000€ • L'isolation thermique des toitures est subventionnée à hauteur de 9€/le m² TTC, plafonné à 400 m². Cette subvention fait suite à l'observation de la thermographie aérienne réalisée par la Direction de l'Environnement en décembre 2009, afin de sensibiliser le grand public aux enjeux de la déperdition de chaleur en toiture. <p>Par ailleurs, des avances remboursables et des bonifications de taux d'intérêt peuvent être octroyées pour des projets en lien avec l'environnement et répondant à certaines conditions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>The concept of green economy - by promoting greater efficiency in the use of natural resources and energy, new technologies for clean energy and cleaner production, while at the same time improving human well-being, providing green decent jobs, reducing inequalities and tackling poverty and preserving the natural capital upon which we all depend - is a good example of the mainstreaming the environment into economic development. This approach integrates economic, social and environmental thinking and concepts in a highly needed way. It promotes innovation to break path dependency and it focuses on valuing, efficiently managing and investing in natural capital as a potential source of economic growth.</p> <p>Better management and more efficient use of natural resources such as water, forests, soil will help underpin the livelihoods of millions of people, and contribute to eradicate poverty. Green economy policies can support the agricultural sector and contribute to food security.</p> <p>Furthermore, the use of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency will contribute to reducing climate change and other environmental impacts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA:</p> <p>Romania has strengthened the use of economic instruments to achieve environmental objectives. The Environment Protection Law of 2005 established the "polluter pays" and the "user pays" principles as well as the principle of sustainable (long-term) use of natural resources. Accordingly, the Government has introduced a range of environmentally related taxes and other charges. The pursuit of environmental objectives is, moreover, supported by various subsidy schemes. Green public</p>
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	<p>procurement and ecolabelling schemes have been established as well. There is nevertheless room for improvement in the application of these tools in key areas such as air and water pollution taxes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Policies on economic development are being assessed also from the environmental perspective, for example through the Annex of impacts which contains part dedicated to environmental impacts of policy, measure or legislative proposal.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC continues to inspire the greening of the private sector via initiatives such as the Green Business Club and CAREC's Sustainability Award in Central Asia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREEN LIBERTY :</p> <p>There is a dominant believe that environmental protection means reducing economic welfare and as the result of economic recession in many countries of the region economic development priorities are prevailing putting environmental concerns off the priorities of the government. One of the main political and economic policy goals in the region is to stimulate GDP growth. The frame of mind behind strategies to reach this goal is the approach - 'let the economy grow, and we'll take care of environmental concerns later'. This inevitably will lead to increasing environmental pressures.</p>

**3.6.2.
Implementing
environmental
policies through
economic/market
instruments
(e.g., phasing
out subsidies,
introducing
environmental
taxation,
payment for
ecosystems
services, etc.)**

AUSTRIA:

While regulations, standards and environmentally motivated subsidies remain at the core of Austrian environmental policy mix, the use of economic instruments has been extended and this has helped improve pricing of environmental externalities. Austria is scrutinizing several areas of taxation constantly with an focus on possible improvements, especially environment-related taxation.

The Austrian Mineral Oil Tax was amended several times in the last year, always leading to an increase of the tax burden. The “engine-related insurance tax” is levied on the power of the combustion engine (measured in kilowatt). The same is true for the vehicle tax levied on vehicles with less than 3,5 tons permissible maximum weight.

The Austrian Government is trying to reduce the tax burden on labour. The latest attempt in this respect was the amendment of the commuting allowance as from 2013. This measure enclosed a tax-bonus for public transport expenses born by the employer.

BULGARIA:

The following main economic/market-based instruments are used:

- taxes and fees aiming to environmental protection and resource efficiency by implementing the principles “polluter pays” and “producer responsibility”: collaterals and charges required for the disposal of waste; product fees - collected from those who do not fulfil their obligations for separate waste collection, reuse, recycling and recovery; eco-fee for the registration of motor vehicles, 50% tax rebate for vehicles (trucks and buses) equipped with eco-engines corresponding to standards Euro 2, 3, 4 and 5; electric cars are tax exempted; tax exemption for buildings with high energy efficiency class;

- targeted subsidies and grants from EU funds and national budget for the construction of water and waste infrastructure and for conservation biodiversity, as well as for promoting green technologies and business models of enterprises, agro-ecological practices and organic farming, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, eco-innovation and research, etc.

- direct price regulation and preferential tariffs - for the production of renewable energy.

- Emission trading scheme – Bulgaria participates successfully in the third phase of the European Emission Trading Scheme 2013-2020. The country implements National Green Investment Scheme and Joint Implementation mechanism according to the Kyoto Protocol. Funds generated are used for energy efficiency projects in schools and kindergartens, as well as support to systems for biomass, biogas and other renewable energy.

GERMANY:

The use of market-based instruments has been extended. The German Ecological Tax Reform (1999) causes an incremental increase in taxes on

fuel and energy. The additional public income is used to contribute to the public pension scheme, thus lowering the non-wage labour costs. In this way, higher energy prices are meant to create incentives for energy savings and higher energy efficiency, while the reduction in non-wage labour costs is expected to stimulate employment. Experts estimated a net increase in employment of 250,000 jobs.

Another relevant market-based instrument is the European Emission Trading System (ETS).

Further examples are water and waste fees or charges within the meaning of the polluter pays principle. Waste management including recycling and recovery at the highest standard are to be paid thereof and thereby have an indirect influence on the reduction of water consumption and waste prevention. The German Federal waste water charge provides incentives to further reduce the discharge of waste water characterized by a number of specific parameters and also supports the enforcement of standards and obligations required in the discharge permits. In a majority of German Federal States water extraction fees are in force to incentivize efficient water use and to reflect resource costs.

GREECE:

The Framework Law for environmental protection (1650/1986) sets out the “polluter pays principle” as one of the basic principles of Greek environmental law and foresees the introduction of environmental charges in two regulative fields: the field of water use and the field of waste disposal. In harmonization with the EU Water Framework Directive, which considers water also as an economic good, and which sets out the cost recovery principle as the guiding principle of water pricing policies, our national Law 3122/2003 established the basic principles of water pricing policies.

Economic instruments in the form of subsidies are provided to industries that have adopted the use of clean technologies and appropriate treatment systems, with the aim of supporting the implementation of national policies for the reduction and treatment of hazardous wastes. The Development Law 3220/2004 also foresees a tax exemption of the reserve funds for the alternative waste management systems, in order to encourage industries to adopt such modern systems for the waste treatment that fulfill the relevant reporting requirements.

The use of environment-related taxes and charges has increased in Greece during the past years, and existing tax schemes have been revised and refined. For example, as regards transport, environmental taxes are imposed mainly in the form of car registration and circulation taxes, the latter varying with cubic capacity, while vehicles with anti-pollution technology are subject to reduced tax rate.

As regards the environmental subsidies, already in the 1980s, half of the purchase price of solar heaters was tax deductible, which incentive led Greece to rank among the top three countries in the use of solar heaters in Europe. This measure has currently been abolished, however, tax rebates for the installation of energy efficient equipment in buildings and factories have been provided. To promote renewable energy sources, a

	<p>wide range of instruments have been adopted. Direct subsidies for RES plans, feed-in-tariffs and tariff incentives have contributed to the acceleration of investments.</p> <p>Greece participates in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to combat climate change, which was launched in 2005 and regulates installations collectively responsible for almost half of the EU's emissions of CO₂ and 40% of its total greenhouse gas emissions. A small percentage of taxes imposed in Greece is allocated to ETERPS (Special Fund for Regulatory and Town Plans) or "Green Fund" for financing environmental activities (for example revenues from pollution fines and fines imposed on car owners due to emissions that surpass the allowable level of pollution).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>Economic instruments that are used in Israel include taxes, fees and charges; deposit-refund systems; environmental subsidies and tax benefits and convenient loan schemes, investments and supports. Fines, fees and taxes are used to penalize organizations which misuse or pollute natural resources and to impose the costs of use on the user while tax benefits and financial support mechanisms are used as incentives for the adoption of environmentally friendly activity and the promotion of clean production programs. Existing fees that are already in place in Israel include landfill levies and water extraction levies. Different means of promoting research and development on innovative environment friendly products, processes and technologies are also being examined. Several economic instruments for financing environmental projects and activities are in operation, such as the marine pollution prevention fund, the cleanliness maintenance fund, the quarry restoration fund and a deposit-return scheme for beverage containers. Based on strict criteria, the MoEP also finances environmental projects such as minimization of hazardous waste and establishment of waste recovery infrastructure. Philanthropic foundations have also been set up in Israel, which provide essential funds for environmental projects implemented by non-governmental organizations. In recent years, foundations have supported such priorities as landscape protection, sustainable transportation, environmental education, air pollution abatement and public participation.</p> <p>To encourage the reduction of air pollution from vehicles, the Government imposes a differential vehicle sales tax that is linked to the pollution level emitted from the vehicle (air pollutants + GHG). The sales tax on hybrid cars was reduced from 90% in 2004 to 30% in 2005 until the end of 2013, 45% in 2014, 60% in 2015 and thereafter like regular cars, while the sales tax on electric cars was set on 8% until the end of 2013, 10% until the end of 2014 and 30% between 2015 and 2019.</p> <p>Deposit Law on Beverage Containers Amendment 2010: An Amendment to the Deposit Law came into effect on February 9, 2010. It aimed at facilitating compliance with more ambitious collection targets like an increase of the deposit sum on small beverage containers from 0.25 to 0.30 NIS per container, prohibiting the sale of beverage containers, which are not duly marked, and more.</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">NORWAY:</p> <p>A lot has already been done in this area, but as long as more can be done I have chosen “in progress” instead of “well-implemented”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>Market-based instruments should play a key role in implementing the green economy principles within national strategies. In specific areas like fostering innovation or jobs creation, they should be complemented by non-market instruments, as appropriate. Pricing environmental externalities and removing environmentally harmful subsidies should be gradually introduced in order to ensure smooth transition to green economy. The identification of best practices at the national level would play an important role in selection of the most efficient and effective fiscal tools, tailored to specific circumstances and national capacities.</p> <p>Poland developed the specific mechanisms and instruments, which were successfully applied to mobilise financial resources needed for structural investments in the environment sector. The full recognition of value of the natural resources through adequate pricing of pollution and natural resources use will be of key importance. Full implementation of the “polluter pays” principle is a key in mobilising financial resources and providing stimulus for investments.</p> <p>In Poland, this principle was successfully introduced through the implementation of the system of environmental fees, charges and fines while revenues were directed to the system of specific, dedicated environmental funds, namely National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management operating at the central administration level and a number of other similar funds at different administration levels.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>The Slovak Republic is using range of environmental instruments, including economic instruments such as environmentally related taxes or charges, tradable scheme (EU ETS), or feed-in tariffs system. Moreover, Slovak Republic has already started phasing out subsidies, for example abolishing tax exemptions in energy taxation (2011).</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>Currently used instruments in Central Asia use the “command and control” approach and aim to penalize polluters rather than prevent pollution. Alternative incentive-based economic tools in environmental governance at the local level that contribute towards better cooperation; participation, transparency and targeted investment into ecosystem services are still unknown.</p> <p>Since 2008 CAREC promotes the concept of Payment for Ecosystem</p>

Services (PES) in Central Asian states. CAREC's project in the Chon-Aksu Watershed, Kyrgyzstan, proved that this approach is feasible.

The network of pilot schemes in the Ile-Alatay National Park (Kazakhstan), in the Tigrovaya Balka region of Tajikistan and in the Ugam-Chatkal National Park (Uzbekistan) represent effective PES schemes and thus ensure the water supply for rural communities.

ECO ACCORD:

The process is not started, but discussions on this issue started.

GREEN LIBERTY :

Market instruments are widely used in most of the countries of the region. However, in many cases they poorly developed and do not trigger the necessary changes in reducing environmental pressures. There are multiple reasons behind that: taxes and fees in many cases are under-priced; collection of taxes are poorly managed etc.

Energy prices in many countries of the region are still determined by the government under certain rules taking into account the costs of the companies' concerned and social factors in the country, but ignoring environmental concerns.

Some examples from the region:

- The Hungarian Government has declared several times its commitment to the implementation of a distance- and pollution-based road toll for trucks. However, in reality, its measures for practical implementation have been controversial as government in many ways try to postpone implementation of legislation.
- The Netherlands is planning to abolish its NOx emissions trading system on 1 January 2014 because the system proved to be ineffective and created a substantial administrative burden. There are also ongoing discussion about efficiency and need for restructuring of EU ETS.
- In Slovakia annual subsidies for renewable energy installations will be cut by up to 20%, according to a draft law tabled by the Slovak government in December 2012. There is also a plan to limit the subsidies for photovoltaic (PV) and hydropower installations. The government explains that without these changes, the Slovak economy could be seriously damaged due to increased electricity prices for end-users.
- The Spanish government has announced a reduction in financial support for renewable energy, which will further discourage investment in a sector already hit by a temporary 35% reduction in tariffs and a 7% tax on generation. In the same time higher energy taxes were introduced following the approval of fiscal measures by the country's parliament before Christmas. All forms of electricity production will be subject to a flat tax of 7 per cent, as opposed to 6 per cent in the initial proposal.

**3.6.3.
Implementing
environmental
policies through
regulatory/nor
mative
instruments
(e.g. norms,
standards, bans,
etc.)**

AUSTRIA:

Austria relies heavily on regulatory instruments and standards. These are accompanied by a number of financial assistance programmes and voluntary instruments. This brought us to the top of the successful countries in terms of environmental protection

BULGARIA:

As EU Member State and Party to all major Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Bulgaria has a well-developed national environmental legislation with the relevant normative objectives, standards, etc for all components of the environment. The country has functioning implementing authorities at national, regional and local level in all

GEORGIA:

With development of Environmental Chapters of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement Georgia will contribute to the long-term objective of sustainable development and approximation of Georgia's regulatory/normative instruments to those of EU.

GERMANY:

Article 20a of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (German Constitution) determines that the state, mindful of its responsibility towards future generations, shall protect the natural bases of life by legislation and, in accordance with law and justice, by executive and judicial action, all within the framework of the constitutional order. According to this provision all governmental and legislative bodies have to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns will thoroughly be taken into account when preparing proposals for policies and legislation.

In Germany, environmental law is one of the most important and extensive sectors of legislation. Numerous provisions, norms and standards have been issued in the different areas of environmental policy.

In addition to that, there are internal governmental rules that ensure the consideration of environmental effects when preparing proposals for non-environmental legislation. According to Article 45 paragraph 1 in conjunction with Annex 6 Nr. 12 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the German Federal Ministries draft legislation will be examined by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety before the proposal will be forwarded to the Cabinet for adoption. The Federal Ministry of the Environment will check possible effects of the proposed provision on the environment, give comments and propose amendments in order to strengthen the integration of environmental factors. The same procedure applies where the government adopts political policies or programmes.

GREECE:

The Greek environmental policy is strongly influenced by the EU environmental policy (EU directives, regulations and strategies), especially for the management of water resources, air quality, toxic chemicals and waste treatment and disposal.

Positive steps in strengthening the implementation of environmental policies in the last decade, include, the creation of the ombudsman with, inter alia, environmental responsibilities, and of an operational environmental inspectorate, as well as positive results of surveillance and enforcement concerning the marine pollution. As regards compliance and enforcement in particular, the Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate oversees and complements all other inspecting authorities in Greece at central, regional and local level and is responsible for: control and monitoring of implementation of environmental conditions laid down for activities and projects in the public and private sectors; recommendation of penalties in case of non-compliance; and collection and evaluation of environmental enforcement data.

ISRAEL:

There are several laws and dozens of regulations that are created under the authority of those laws, which relate to general environmental protection. Some examples include:

- Implementation of Provisions of the Montreal Protocol, Regulation, 2009: the purpose of these regulations, promulgated in January 2004, is to implement the provisions of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The regulations set restrictions on production, consumption, import and export of substances that deplete or are likely to deplete the ozone layer and establish means of inspection and control mechanisms.
- Effluent Quality Standards and Rules for Sewage Treatment, Regulations, 2010: The objective of these regulations, which fall under the authority of the Public Health Ordinance, the Licensing of Businesses Law, and the Water Law is ""to protect public health, to prevent pollution of water sources from sewage and effluents, to facilitate the recovery of effluents as a water source, to protect the environment, including ecological systems and biological diversity, soil and agricultural crops, inter alia, through the imposition of obligations and setting of instructions in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.""
- Declaration on National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites (Protected Natural Assets), Proclamation, 2005: Israel's National Parks, Nature Reserves, Memorial Sites and National Sites Law of 1992 relates, inter alia, to the declaration of ""protected natural assets,"" defined as flora, fauna or minerals, which, are valuable for protection and are at risk of extinction. The law prohibits destroying, possessing or trading in these protected natural assets.

More legislations could be found on our website:

<http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/Legislation/Pages/Legislation.aspx>

Standards relate to energy efficiency, green building, green product etc.

Bans relate inter alia to import/export of waste, use of certain chemicals, leaded fuel, driving on beaches, building regulations etc.

MONACO:

Le projet de code de l'environnement est une loi cadre visant à limiter les atteintes à l'environnement et à promouvoir des actions vertueuses.

En dehors de ce cadre, de nombreuses lois vont dans le sens de la mise en oeuvre de politiques environnementales. Nous pouvons à ce titre citer un arrêté ministériel récent qui renforce la performance énergétique des nouveaux bâtiment et des rénovations lourdes.

NORWAY:

A lot has already been done in this area, but as long as more can be done I have chosen "in progress" instead of "well-implemented".

POLAND:

Implementation of norms, standards and indicators of the sustainable development can be the main step towards achievement of sustainable development. The gross domestic product (GDP) is mostly a measure of production and does not reflect issues such as environmental sustainability, the use of natural and human capital, resource efficiency and social inclusion There is a need to use, and where necessary develop indicators that complement GDP and contribute to a more accurate picture of the inter-linkages between the environmental, economic and social aspects of wealth and well-being.

ROMANIA:

The National Environmental Protection Agency established in 2004 provides technical support to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change mainly in the areas of drafting of normative documents, strategies and sectoral environmental policies harmonized with EU acquis

SLOVAKIA:

Implementation of EU legislation.

UKRAINE:

С принятием Налогового кодекса (вступил в силу с 1 января 2011г.) сбор за загрязнение окружающей природной среды заменен на экологический налог. Экологический налог остается одним из инструментов госрегулирования рационального природоиспользования и сохранения экологической безопасности

жизнедеятельности человека, охраны окружающей природной среды. Экологический налог относится к общегосударственным налогам и сборам наряду с платой за пользование недрами, платой за землю, сбора за специальное использование лесных ресурсов и др. В соответствии с Налоговым кодексом плательщиками налога являются субъекты хозяйственной деятельности, юр.лица, не осуществляющие хозяйственную (предпринимательскую) деятельность, бюджетные учреждения, общественные и другие предприятия, учреждения и организации, постоянные представительства нерезидентов, включая тех, которые выполняют агентские (представительские) функции относительно таких нерезидентов или их учредителей, при осуществлении деятельности которых на территории Украины и в пределах ее континентального шельфа и исключительной(морской) экономической зоны осуществляются:

выбросы загрязняющих веществ в атмосферный воздух стационарными источниками загрязнения;

сбросы загрязняющих веществ непосредственно в водные объекты;

размещение отходов(кроме размещения отдельных видов(классов)отходов как вторичного сырья, размещаемых на собственных территориях(объектах) субъектов хозяйствования)

Плательщиками налога являются субъекты хозяйственной деятельности, юр.лица, не осуществляющие хозяйственную (предпринимательскую) деятельность, бюджетные учреждения, общественные и другие предприятия, учреждения и организации, постоянные представительства нерезидентов, включая тех, которые выполняют агентские (представительские) функции относительно таких нерезидентов или их учредителей, а также граждане Украины, иностранцы и лица без гражданства, осуществляющие выбросы загрязняющих веществ в атмосферу передвижными источниками загрязнения в случае использования ими топлива.

Кабинет Министров Украины ежегодно вносит в Верховную Раду Украины проект закона о внесении изменений в Налоговый кодекс относительно ставок налогообложения, определенных в абсолютных значениях, с учетом индексов потребительских цен, индексов цен производителей промышленной продукции, в том числе и по экологическому налогу.

CAREC:

Water deficiency and degradation of aquatic ecosystems is the most challenging issue for Central Asia. The main problems of transboundary water resources management in Central Asia are caused by the contradiction between the interests of upstream countries and downstream countries, Central Asia countries decided to develop a Partnership Agreement on harmonization of the legislation in the environmental sector.

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**3.6.4.
Implementing
environmental
policies through
information
based/voluntary
instruments
(e.g. labelling,
etc.)**

AUSTRIA:

At both federal and Land level, co-operation between government and social partners is a voluntary and informal arrangement not regulated by law, although a number of Austrian laws specify that certain stakeholders or institutions have a right to participate in the consultation process.

Demand-side instruments, including standards, labelling and green public procurement, are playing an increasing role.

The policy mix for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is mainly based on regulation, voluntary instruments and subsidies. The latter include a series of agrienvironmental programmes, the latest adopted in 2007, to provide financial support to more environment-friendly agricultural practices, such as organic farming, thereby reducing the impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, land and water.

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria implements European voluntary schemes – Eco Label and EMAS, according to the Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Eco label and the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organizations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Annually, the Czech Republic adopts the Report on the Implementation of the Voluntary Instruments that provides an overview of all related activities in the Czech Republic.

GERMANY:

Numerous instruments on both the production and the consumption side have been introduced of which several by now have been well established.

The Blue Angel, for example, is the first environment-related label for products and services in the world. Since 1978, it has set the standard for eco-friendly products and services selected by an independent jury in line with defined criteria. The Blue Angel is only awarded to products and services which - from a holistic point of view - are of considerable benefit to the environment and, at the same time, meet high standards of serviceability, health, and occupational protection. The Blue Angel considers itself as a market-conform instrument of environmental policy designed to distinguish the positive environmental features of products and services on a voluntary basis. Companies use the label to professionally promote their eco-friendly products in the market. Thus, it is an ecological beacon showing the consumer the way to the ecologically superior product and promotes environmentally conscious consumption. A total of around 13,000 products of more than 1400 companies in 126

product categories are labelled with the Blue Angel.

Besides the Blue Angel, EMAS, the European Eco Management and Audit Scheme, is highly promoted in Germany. A total of about 1,800 company and organisation sites improve their environmental performance continuously and report publicly (see the collection of environmental statements under <http://www.emas.de>). Since 2010, EMAS is open for application outside the EU. Registration may take place in an EU member state which provides for “global EMAS”. Germany now provides for this global registration.

GREECE:

Greece is promoting the uptake of information-based, voluntary instruments such as the ISO14001, the EU EMAS environmental management system (Regulation EC 1221/2009) and the EU Ecolabel on products and services (Regulation EC 66/2010), for improving the environmental performance of organizations and providing opportunities and incentives for organizations to assume leadership in environmental protection. EMAS, in particular, is open to all industry and economic sectors and constitutes a management tool for evaluating, reporting and improving the environmental performance of organizations, while the EU Ecolabel identifies products and services that have a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle. To promote these instruments in the market, financial support has been given to enterprises for the uptake of EMAS, ISO14001 and Ecolable during the last decade, through the Operational Programmes of the Ministries of Development and Environment, co-funded by European and national funds (in the framework of the Community Support Framework 2000-2006 and of the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013). Recently, Laws 4014/2011 and 3982/2011 on the environmental permitting and licensing procedures, introduce new incentives (financial and regulatory relief) for the uptake of EMAS and ISO14001 from manufacturing enterprises.

ISRAEL:

There are several environmental policies that are implemented through information-based instruments. The following are a few examples:

- Maintenance of Cleanliness Regulations (Marking of Beverage Containers), 1987: these regulations relate to the requirement in the Maintenance of Cleanliness Law to print or impress on beverage containers, or on a label affixed to them, a conspicuous notice as to the prohibition to discard waste. The public discard of big beverage bottles in special cages (the recycling corporation calls for this through adds in the media).
- Household waste recycling: more and more households separate domestic waste into two streams – wet and dry. The process is fostered through intensive information campaigns.
- Water conservation: Water scarcity and deterioration of water quality dictate the need for greater water efficiency and conservation in Israel. This is achieved through a wide variety of measures including education

and information, water-sensitive planning and water-wise gardening.

- Green labeling on several kinds of products
- The current Green Building standard is voluntary

MONACO:

la Direction du Tourisme et des Congrès à récemment développé un nouveau label « Green Signature » pour les hôteliers qui s'engage dans une démarche de développement durable.

De plus, de nombreux projets immobiliers s'inscrivent dans une démarche environnementale (HQE, BREEAM,..) aux fins de certification.

NORWAY:

A lot has already been done in this area, but as long as more can be done I have chosen "in progress" instead of "well-implemented".

POLAND:

Implementation of national environmental legislations and supported for international commitments could bring together business, government and citizens. This could lead to partnerships (PPPs) and voluntary agreements. These can facilitate leading businesses in greening their activities and mainstream sustainable production-and consumption methods. Previous agreements at the beginning of EfE process are a good starting point for commitment to partnerships.

ROMANIA:

The Government has introduced a range of environmentally related taxes and other charges. The pursuit of environmental objectives is, moreover, supported by various subsidy schemes. Green public procurement and ecolabelling schemes have been established as well. There is nevertheless room for improvement in the application of these tools in key areas such as air and water pollution taxes.

SLOVAKIA:

Well-implemented through EMAS, GPP, labelling schemes.

The National environmental label scheme, which awards the environmental label "Environmentally friendly product", takes into account efficient use of natural resources in developing environmental criteria in the special conditions for each product group. In 1997 Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic launched the National Program for National Evaluation and Labelling of products. Act No. 469/2002 on environmental product labelling, as amended, from the 1st December 2002 regulates the conditions and procedure for granting national environmental label "Environmentally friendly product".

	<p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is not implementing activities in this field</p>

4. Progress in strengthening the implementation of outcomes of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

The main outcomes of the Astana Conference include:

4.1. Ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (*by your country*)

AZERBAIJAN:

Azerbaijan has ratified 20 Conventions on environment and the obligations on these conventions are carried out.

BELARUS:

По итогам седьмой конференции министров окружающей среды в Астане Республика Беларусь ратифицировала поправки к статьям 25 и 26 Конвенции по международным водотокам (Водной конвенции)

BULGARIA:

Bulgaria has ratified and implements most of the UNECE MEAs long before the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference. This conference has given a strong impetus to ratify the amendments to Art. 24 and 25 of the Water Convention. The amendments were ratified in September 2012.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

See the section on MEAs.

FINLAND:

For Finland, ratifying and implementing relevant MEAs is a priority. This is also reflected in Finland's development policy and donor activities. Finland also actively takes part in developing tools and mechanisms for better overall implementation, e.g. by enhancing synergies between MEAs. For Finland, these issues are to a great extent addressed through other means than Efe. The role of UNECE has an important role in implementing MEAs in the region, and in the Astana context, especially the transboundary waters and other water related commitments.

GERMANY:

Germany is promoting activities in support of the implementation of MEAs in EECCA countries as well.

GREECE:

See analytical comments above on MEAs

HUNGARY:

MEAs were already ratified and mostly implemented before the Astana Conference. Hungary

continues to work towards better implementation of MEAs.

SLOVENIA:

We ratified Amendments to Articles 25 and 26 to the UNECE Water Convention.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Our decisions regarding the ratification of MEAs is not impacted by the EfE process.

4.2. Implementing the Astana Water Action *(by your country)*

AUSTRIA:

See also the Austrian answer to the questionnaire on the main outcomes of the Astana Water Action, which was an input for the EfE mid-term review (slightly shortened):

Action 1 (Urban wastewater treatment and drinking water supply):

Austria has put considerable efforts in increasing connection rates to public water supply and wastewater treatment networks. Since 1959 about 55 billion Euros were spent in building water and sanitation infrastructure until end of 2011. These efforts resulted in connections rates of more than 90% to public water supply systems and of about 94% to public sewer systems with adequate advanced wastewater treatment and full compliance with EU legal requirements according to urban wastewater treatment.

Action 2 (Improvement of river continuity and habitat connectivity):

In line with requirements of the EU-WFD (2000/60/EC), the First River Basin Management Plan (NGP 2009) identifies a number of important surface water bodies, where measures to restore river continuity

as well as to provide environmental flows have to be implemented with highest priority - latest by 2015. In total 140 Mio. Euros have been made available for the period 2009-2015 for the implementation of related measures to restore and improve ecological status of surface water bodies. Since 2009 more than 40 Mio. Euros were spent for restoration of river continuity with federal contributions (subsidies) of about 20 Mio Euros. Additionally, more than 55 Mio Euros were spent for restoration of river morphology with federal contributions of about 24 Mio Euros.

Ad Action 3 (Enhancement of renewable energy production, refurbishment of hydropower plants):

The refurbishment of existing hydropower plants to improve its efficiency with simultaneous compliance with ecological requirements (e.g. river continuity, environmental flows) is supported by financial incentives as well as by providing advice to owners of small hydropower plants (e.g. Upper Austria, where until 2011 the technical upgrade and ecological restoration of 243 small existing hydropower plants was finished using 4,8 Mio Euro funds and 37,2 Mio Euro investments.). For further development of hydropower generation, an Austrian Water Catalogue was launched in 2012, which allows a transparent and reliable evaluation of new hydropower projects in order to balance the potential for hydropower generation with ecological value of surface water bodies (see http://www.lebensministerium.at/wasser/wasseroesterreich/wasserrecht_national/planung/erneuerbareenergie/Kriterienkatalog.html).

AZERBAIJAN:

Astana Water Action was adopted by the countries. It is covered by activities in the sphere of aquatic ecosystems, water and health, access to clean and safe drinking water, adaptation to climate changes, transboundary water cooperation, water efficiency and water investments. Water resources monitoring, evaluation, use and protection covers all issues and based on international principles.

National Political Dialogue on integrated water resources management is supported by relevant

agencies and international organizations in order to ensure a more productive future cooperation. The activity is based on international practice, especially to EU Water Framework Directive.

National Water Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the protection of water resources in accordance with national legislation and international norms, use, management and control of the development will be directed.

The purpose of the National Water Strategy for the management of water resources - a significant socio-economic development of the country's water resources in a sustainable manner in order to achieve an efficient, equitable and optimal utilization of national efforts aimed at strengthening and promoting. There was established a working group for the implementation of the strategy. After drawing up the implementation plan of strategy by this group, the Steering Committee will confirm and control the realization.

BULGARIA:

In Astana Water Action Bulgaria committed to invest in environmentally friendly sanitation and wastewater treatment, appropriate operation and maintenance.

At this stage there are 7 projects completed with grant EU funds in amount of BGN 78 million (around €39 million).

81 projects for a total of BGN 2.8 billion (around €1.4 billion) in process of implementation.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Czech Republic sent the report on the implementation of Astana Water national actions to the UNECE in May 2013.

FINLAND:

In Astana, Finland made both national and donor commitments. All actions are ongoing.

GEORGIA:

Georgia has committed to 3 actions under the framework of the Astana Water Action. They are:

Development Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia.

Enhanced Preparedness of Georgia Against Extreme Weather Events

National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management

All actions are in progress. The Report on the implementation of the Astana Water Action in Georgia was sent to EfE in May 2013.

GERMANY:

Germany has reported three actions under the Astana Water Action, which are either implemented and/or on-going. Germany has just reported accordingly to the UNECE secretariat.

HUNGARY:

The actions Hungary is committed to comprise the National Remediation Program of Contaminated Sites (reflecting paras 11 f, g, 13c,d,g of AWA); the National Program for the Protection of Drinking Water Sources; introducing non-structural and more sustainable measures in the Hungarian flood risk management (reflecting paras 15 c, d,e of AWA), the management and utilisation plan supporting ecological baseline studies along the River Danube in the Gemenc and BÉda-Karapanca Region (2006-2011) (related to paras 9b, 11a, j, k, l and 12b of AWA); upgrading bilateral transboundary water agreements (paras 19d, 19 e, 19a of AWA) and monitoring of wetland habitats and their communities (11d, e, l, m, 12b of AWA). Most elements are already implemented, some still in progress. For details see separate report on AWA implementation submitted May 2013

SLOVAKIA:

Most of objectives of Astana Water Action are addressed by implementation of the Water Framework Directive and others water directives.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We support the implementation of this in some EECCA countries through our bilateral assistance efforts.

CAREC:

CAREC contributes to the implementation of the Astana Water Action via:

- Developing and expanding the use of payments for ecosystem services (PES) in CA states;
- supporting meetings of the interstate Chu-Talas Commission (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan) and establishing the local stakeholders committees on small transboundary watersheds (Isfara, Aspara and Ugam);
- implementing capacity building activities for basin organizations and development of IWRM based basin plans jointly with basin commissions and local stakeholders committees;
- Supporting development of SEIS in Central Asia;
- Raising awareness about water-efficient techniques and practices;
- Highlighting the issue of reused and return waters in CA countries;
- implementing activities on community mobilization and engagement in proper management of rehabilitated water supply systems in remote small villages (Kazakhstan).

ECO-TIRAS:

Initially AWA became a stimulus for the development and water-related actions prioritization. It looks as a good practice which prioritize the selected environmental policies for relatively long period. At the same time some actions like PES without international support remain on paper only

4.3. Promoting a green economy (*by your country*)

AUSTRIA:

In 2010, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) launched the Masterplan Green Jobs, aimed at creating 100 000 additional green jobs by 2020. It is linked to other initiatives that support Austrian environmental technology and the environmental goods and services sector.

In 2008, the BMLFUW, in co-operation with other government agencies and think tanks, launched Growth in Transition, a platform to strengthen dialogue about sustainable growth. It is intended to promote “qualitative growth” (increased well-being and quality of life) rather than GDP growth.

AZERBAIJAN:

The first phase of the development of “green economy” plan is to review the potential consequences of the essence of “green economy” concept and the green transition for economy.

The situation in Azerbaijan must be considered unique in terms of “Green” Economy. The country has a great development in the transition to a market economy thanks to its oil and gas reserves. After the Soviet Union collapse, industry (especially power engineering) significantly improved and has become the 50 % of GDP. The government understands well the need to the new “green” economic model transition and the transition planning in other economic sectors that could provide the financial flows in addition less dependence on the extraction of underground fuel. The transition to “Green” economy enables to use in order to to make way to the development of non-oil sector, to the more sustainable economic processes than increasing oil revenues and more sustainable production and consumption schemes

BELARUS:

Подготовлено Национальное сообщение «Устойчивое развитие Республики Беларусь на принципах «зеленой экономики», создана межведомственная рабочая группа по вопросам зеленой экономики под руководством Министра природных ресурсов и охраны окружающей среды. В дополнение к сказанному следует отметить, что Республика Беларусь активно работает в сфере «Зеленой» экономики и реализует ряд проектов, направленных на озеленение белорусской экономики: проект «Зеленая» экономика в Беларуси в рамках Национальной программы действий ЕС на 2012 г., проект «Озеленение экономики в странах Восточного партнерства».

BULGARIA:

At present, there is no unified and comprehensive strategic framework at national level for transition to green economy.

Nevertheless, some initiatives are implemented that contribute to integrating environmental considerations, to green economic growth and to increasing resource efficiency in a number of sector policies:

Promoting green jobs – this measure envisages for each opened green job, the employer to

receive grants for the time during which a person is at work, but for no more than 12 months. The definition of green jobs is based on a list of economic activities for which the creation of green jobs is supported, as well as certification and registration of employers under environmental management schemes and systems (ISO Standard 14001, eco-labelling, EMAS, etc.).

National Action Plan for the promotion of green procurement (2012-2014) was adopted. The plan sets obligatory objectives for all governmental institutions for the procurement of environmentally friendly goods and services (for local authorities the objectives are advisable)

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Czech Republic is promoting the concept of Green Economy across all thematic areas and strategies. One successful example of such an approach is the Green Savings Programme.

The Green Savings Programme focuses on support for heating installations utilising renewable energy sources but also investment in energy savings in reconstructions and new buildings. The programme will support quality insulation of family houses and multiple-dwelling houses, the replacement of environment unfriendly heating for low-emission biomass-fired boilers and efficient heat pumps, installations of these sources in new low-energy buildings, installation of solar-thermal collectors as well as construction of new houses in the passive energy standard.

The Czech Republic has raised funds for this programme from the sale of emission credits under the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Green Savings support has been set up so that the funds can be used throughout the period from the programme's launch until 31 December 2013. A subsidy may be applied for before or after implementing the measure, but support for measures completed before the programme's launch cannot be granted. The support is granted for equipment installed in residential houses, not buildings intended for individual recreation or industrial buildings, even if the applicant has their permanent residence there.

FINLAND:

The Finnish Government is pursuing green growth by several national strategies and programs, e.g. on energy & climate, material and resource efficiency, bioeconomy, clean tech, sustainable consumption and production, economic instruments. The Ministry of Environment has implied a dialog process to define green economy and its implications to different actors. There is a clear need and interest to coordinate and strengthen the green growth approaches in the society.

GEORGIA:

Georgia has joined to the multi-partner programme – EaP GREEN (Greening Economics in the Eastern Neighbourhood), which has been launched in January 2013. The programme's overall objective is for the EaP countries to move towards a green economy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and resources depletion.

GERMANY:

Germany has already made significant progress on the path to a new form of growth. Today we use much less resources, land and energy, and emit fewer pollutants than just ten years ago to

obtain the same yield. Between 1990 and 2010, energy productivity increased by 38.6% and raw material productivity by 46.8%. In 2009 emissions of air pollutants were 56.4% down on 1990. In 2008 the production of environmental goods in Germany had a volume of nearly 76 billion EUR and almost 2 million people were employed in the environmental sector.

Promoting a green economy plays as well an important role in our international cooperation. For example, within regional projects, Germany is supporting the development of sectoral emission reduction strategies (so-called Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions -NAMAs) in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. As to the countries of Kazakhstan and the Ukraine, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment is providing advice in the process of developing national Green Economy/Low-carbon Development Strategies. In Russia, we are supporting the introduction of modern environmental technologies in industry by supporting the development of incentive schemes for Best Available Technologies (BAT).

GREECE:

See comments above

HUNGARY:

Highlights: the country's first National Environmental Technology Innovation Strategy (NETIS) was adopted by the Government in 2011. The NETIS Strategy (2011-2020) aims for mainstreaming the concept of a green economy decoupling, resource savings, improved resource efficiency, higher competitiveness by the development of the environmental industry and by fostering the uptake of innovations. NETIS promotes a move towards preventive, life-cycle based and integrative solutions. The New Széchenyi Plan (the economy development programme of Hungary) also serves as a framework for various GE related actions with EU co-finance.

ISRAEL:

A major factor in Israel's decision to pursue a strategy of green growth was its accession to the OECD in 2010. Israel responded to the OECD message that green growth can open up new sources of growth by enhancing productivity and improving resource management, providing opportunities for innovation, and creating new markets. It was determined to implement the June 2009 OECD Declaration on Green Growth in which ministers from 34 countries resolved to "strengthen their efforts to pursue green growth strategies as part of their responses to the crisis and beyond." It resolved to demonstrate that "green" and "growth" could go hand in hand.

In a landmark decision taken by Israel's parliament on October 23, 2011, the government approved the proposal of the MoEP and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor to prepare a national green growth strategy for the years 2013-2020. The decision focuses on separating economic growth from environmental deterioration based on the recognition that the environment can serve as an engine for increasing efficiency, resource savings and economic growth, for developing new cleantech industries, for creating new jobs, for strengthening the social infrastructure and for increasing competitiveness on the global market.

A set of indicators for measuring the progress toward green growth was developed by a special inter-ministerial committee appointed during the first green growth round table process of the "National Green Growth Plan" that was previously mentioned. These indicators are meant to help shape Israel's future decision making on the subject and to contribute to information-based public discourse.

Outcome indicators of the green growth plan, which aim to assess the economic outcomes that directly result from the implementation of the plan's policy tools in the short and medium range, and allow for quick adaptation of the implementation policy. (Examples include: green jobs, gross domestic product in environmental sectors, export of environmental technologies, rate of integration of environmental technologies, rate of green public procurement, and rate of raw material recycling in industry and rate of green building.)

Benchmark indicators for green growth, which aim to reflect the overall, long-range progress of the State of Israel toward green growth from a wide perspective. (Examples include: ""Green GDP"" - domestic product minus environmental costs, resource use intensity and resource productivity - water, energy and raw materials, carbon footprint and ecological footprint, intensity of carbon emissions, level of environmental pollution (soil, air, water), and level of environmental morbidity.)

Dashboard indicators, which provide a more segmented and detailed picture of different aspects of the green growth plan and are designated for professionals. (Examples include: environmental efficiency of production and consumption, environmental quality of life, state of natural resources, and scope and impact of environmental policy tools.)

POLAND:

Poland implements green economy in different manners, including through investment and innovation; through more efficient use of natural and financial resources; and by preventing damage to the environment and human health. Important policy document promoting the concept of sustainability in Poland is the National Reform Programme (NRP), which presents the response of the country to the challenges to be faced in the upcoming years identified in the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Programme has been structured to promote three main priorities: Smart growth - developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth - promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy and Inclusive growth - fostering a high-employment economy ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion. As a result of national development policy reform, nine integrated development strategies have been elaborated, which replaced a great number of sector specific strategies elaborated and adopted over the last 20 years. They have similar overarching objectives, aiming at creating effective management system of the development of Poland, improving efficiency of budget spending, and increasing transparency of the strategic programming.

Poland has got reach experience in creating innovative funding mechanisms and implementing green projects. There is a number of tools that we have found useful over time and we would like to share our knowledge connected with their design, fine-tuning and implementation. Poland established a number of dedicated programmes to stimulate domestic green technologies. The best example is GreenEvo – the green technology accelerator project. One of its goals is to promote development and transfer of innovative, but affordable to developing countries, environmental technologies.

The second one is GEKON – Ecological Concepts Generator aims at granting financial support for R&D and companies consortia searching for and bringing to the market innovative environmentally friendly technologies. The programme covers such areas as energy efficiency and storage, conservation and rationalization of water utilization and renewable energy sources. Cost-effective implementation of national strategies, new and innovative financial mechanisms as well as new green technologies and innovations may faster our economic growth and environment protection. The policy for efficient use of natural resources aims mainly at separating GDP growth and quality of life increase from the degradation of the environment. and depleting natural resources. Currently, in Poland the consumption of natural resources amounts to 16 tonnes per capita annually. Polish economy is still far more energy-

and resource-intensive and greenhouse gas emission intensive in comparison to other OECD countries. However, provided that we continue our path of growth, we will be soon able to catch up with countries enjoying the continuous decrease of their economies' impact on the environment. Over the last 20 years Poland doubled of its GDP and managed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30%. The resource-efficiency factor in the last decade increased by 15%.

Poland is ready to continue to take active part in developing future framework for green economy as a part of the post-Rio+20 process, including elaboration and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The actions on climate change is an important element of such framework. We do believe that Warsaw Climate Change Summit COP19 this year will provide a substantial input to preparation and conclusion of new, global and legally binding agreement on climate change in 2015.

ROMANIA:

Romania considers that moving to a green economy should be defined as a strict set of rules, but each state should establish implementing measures depending on its circumstances and capabilities. In this respect, elaborating a National Action Plan regarding the green economy is essential. We must focus on the development of sectors that can support this process, such as schemes for green investments for the promotion of technologies regarding the use of renewable energies, the sustainable management of waste, forests and water, rehabilitation of buildings, which are fields with high potential for the efficient use of resources

SLOVAKIA:

For example work on Green Growth Indicators. Link (only in Slovak): <http://www1.enviroportal.sk/indikatory/schema.php?schema=124>

The set of green growth indicators was created. It follows conclusions of the Green Growth national workshop (2011), the recommendations of OECD Environmental Performance Review: Slovak Republic (2011) as well as the recommendations of OECD Economic Survey of Slovak Republic (2012). The current set of green growth indicators includes 33 individual indicators based on relevance to the Slovak condition and data availability. Four of them are national indicators describing voluntary environmental policy instruments. The selected indicators are structured into four interrelated groups: environmental and resource productivity; natural asset base; environmental quality of life; policy responses and economic opportunities. Presented indicators become one of the tools that may shape the view of government and the public to green growth and can help to shift towards a more positive view of the adopted measures, which are essential to the transition to a green economy in Slovakia. The set of indicators is available in Slovak only on: <http://www1.enviroportal.sk/indikatory/schema.php?schema=124> .

SWITZERLAND:

An action plan for a Green Economy has been adopted by the Federal Council on 8 March 2013 and the Environment Protection is actually in revision. The principal points of the planned revision

- Improvement of the resource efficiency of consumption and production; in particular, improvements shall be made to the information provided about the ecological footprint of products; promotion of target agreements and dialogue with business.
- Closure of material cycles (recovery of e.g. phosphorous and copper).

- Voluntary initiatives in collaboration with economic actors, science and society and strengthening of Switzerland's international commitment to the green economy and improvement of resource efficiency.
- Definition of targets for the efficient use of natural resources, the measurement of resource use, reporting, and the provision of information and raising of public awareness.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We support the implementation of this in some EECCA countries through our bilateral assistance efforts.

CAREC:

CAREC supports motivation of the private sector to be greener via developing the initiative to establish a Green Business Club and Sustainability Award in Central Asia.

GREEN LIBERTY:

It's should be mentioned that there are many initiatives promoting green economy in the region. According to Global Green Economy Index (www.dualcitizeninc.com/ggei2012.pdf) many countries of the region are performing very well in regard to green economy, Denmark and Germany topping the list. However, in all the countries brown economy is still dominating.

4.4. Promoting the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (*by your country*)

BELARUS:

В дополнение к сказанному в предыдущем пункте следует отметить, что Республика Беларусь активно работает в сфере «Зеленой» экономики и реализует ряд проектов, направленных на озеленение белорусской экономики: проект «Зеленая» экономика в Беларуси в рамках Национальной программы действий ЕС на 2012 г., проект «Озеленение экономики в странах Восточного партнерства».

Наша страна также высказалась в поддержку программы партнерства «Зеленый мост»

GERMANY:

Wherever possible, the Federal Ministry for the Environment strives for creating links between its support to promoting a green economy in Central Asia and the implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which – according to information of the Federal Ministry – is still under preparation by its initiator, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ROMANIA:

We consider that strong cooperation between governmental authorities, the business environment and consumers in order to promote a new approach must become a political priority.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We are still uncertain what this program is.

CAREC:

CAREC supports this initiative and consults the Kazakhstan's Government on its development.

4.5. Ensuring implementation of the third cycle of environmental performance reviews (*by your country*)

BELARUS:

В настоящее время Республика Беларусь рассматривает возможность проведения третьего Обзора

CROATIA:

...The second cycle of EPR is in progress.

FINLAND:

Active in EPR Group and review team

GEORGIA:

Currently we are not in a position to answer

HUNGARY:

active as a reviewer

ISRAEL:

Israel, as an OECD country, undergoes a review process by this organization. The OECD prepared its first EPR of Israel in 2011. Israel also participates as a reviewing country in reviews carried out in other member countries (Germany 2012).

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland contributes as donor country (financing/expert) to the 3rd cycle and also contributes to the implementation of the EPR recommendations in EECCA countries, especially Central Asia and Azerbaijan through the financing of UNECE Conventions activities (Espoo, Water, Air Pollution) and EAP TF activities (governance, green economy, water)

CAREC:

CAREC is a regional organization of international character

4.6. Establishing a regular process of environmental assessment, including developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) (*by your country*)

AZERBAIJAN:

The main ENPI-SEIS project partners are the national environmental and statistical organisations leading in the field of environmental information within the ENPI area: ministries, agencies and statistical offices responsible for collecting, producing, storing and disseminating environmental data and information.

Each country has nominated two national ENPI-SEIS focal points for this process — high level officials, representing the environmental and statistical organisations respectively and responsible for managing and developing the environmental information system in the countries.

The project implementation is done in close cooperation with UNEP/MAP/Barcelona Convention, UNECE and EEA member and cooperating countries. There are also close linkage envisaged to other relevant EU funded projects in the region.

In 2012, the activities are organised around the project workplan of 2012 agreed jointly with the partner countries at the ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee meeting in November 2012. Also specific country and/or regional capacity building activities as identified in the SEIS Country Reports - and action plans within these reports - are planned.

Working groups on Environmental Indicators and Information Technology for both ENPI South and East regions were established early 2012 with a view to sharing specific knowledge and making progress in the development of environmental data, indicators and IT infrastructure. The Working Groups aim to share experiences and work on a particular topic in order to make progress towards SEIS implementation. The ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points coordinated the nomination of the representatives for each of the Working Groups. These include one participant from the statistical and one participant from the environmental community from each country

Report was prepared for EEA under the ENPI-SEIS Project and based on on discussions during the SEIS country visit of the EEA on 13-14 June 2011.

ENPI East metadata survey was answered and available in internet.

BULGARIA:

A regular process of environmental assessment in Bulgaria has been established more than two decades ago. Expert teams of the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Executive Environment Agency (ExEA) together with other institutions – Ministry of Economy and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, National Statistical Institute and others, develop annual National State of the Environment Report.

The data for the report is provided by the National System for Environmental Monitoring (NSEM), which is established and operated in accordance with the Bulgarian Environmental Protection Act. The system provides timely and reliable information on the elements of the environment and the factors affecting it. NSEM is managed by the Minister of Environment and Water through ExEA, which provides material-technical, methodological and software-information resources, necessary for its operation and development.

Bulgaria participates in the on-going European and global initiatives, contributing to the

implementation of SEIS. In 2010 ExEA, together with the European Environment Agency (EEA), organised 'SEIS Country Visit' in Bulgaria. ExEA is one of the responsible organisations in Bulgaria for the implementation of the EU directive "INSPIRE" and produces various web-based map viewers. The agency participates in the European Copernicus programme and the creation of the land cover product for 2012 and the land cover change product between 2006 and 2012. ExEA is one of the participants in the recent EEA success story with SEIS – the SENSE project, and established an automated process for online reporting of state of environment information from the national website to the EEA's web pages.

FINLAND:

Environmental assessments and development of environmental information systems have been developed and information made largely available, by Finnish environmental and other governmental bodies. However, regarding SEIS, Finland as an EU member state expects that EU establishes a community-wide implementation process. This is not the case at the time being. SEIS has a vital role in developing RPEA.

GERMANY:

With the SEIS concept currently being only a communication by the EU-Commission, the legal basis is insufficient to establish a functional environmental information system based on SEIS principles.

GREECE:

Greece is following the EU developments into establishing a SEIS

HUNGARY:

Hungary had a SEIS country visit from the EEA in 2010 and continues working towards the implementation of the SEIS principles. Hungary actively contributed to SOEs, thematic assessments and EE-AOA coordinated by the European Environment Agency.

ISRAEL:

Israel is part of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Shared Environmental Information System project (ENPI-SEIS), which is funded by the EU. On April 29 and 30 of 2013, four representatives of the European Environment Agency visited the MoEP for discussions focused on the environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea region. The meetings took place within the framework of the EU's European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - Shared Environmental Information Systems (ENPI-SEIS) project, aimed at improving collection and exchange of data regarding environmental policy. The project is connected to the Review, Monitoring, and Research subgroup of the Horizon 2020 Initiative, the goal of which is to tackle most of the Mediterranean's pollution sources by the year 2020. The SEIS members met with representatives from the ministry's Chief Scientist's Office and ministry professionals, as well as with representatives from the Central Bureau of Statistics. (The MoEP and the CBS are the entities responsible for SEIS in Israel.) One of the main goals of the meetings was to formulate objective indicators to measure the environmental status of the southern and eastern region of the Mediterranean Sea. Specifically, the indicators relate to waste, water, and industrial emissions - the core subjects of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. This

information will be the scientific and professional basis for the formulation of policy and for decision-making related to the depollution of the Mediterranean. See <http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/country-report/country-report> for the report about Israel.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) system in Israel incorporates environmental considerations in earlier stages of the planning and decision-making processes and incorporates sustainable development principles. The regulations, which were drafted by the MoEP in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior (and in consultation with the National Planning and Building Board), are based on the experience gained in Israel over the past two decades and on a review of EIA systems in other countries.

ROMANIA:

SEISTh will ensure that real time data will be available to decision makers and allow them to make immediate decisions that might save lives. Existing experiences for forest fires, floods and droughts, demonstrates how updated environmental information can make the difference in case of emergencies. SEIS will allow data to be combined with information from different sources .

SLOVAKIA:

See answer above

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland contributes financially to the establishment of RPEA and SEIS in Central Asia (CAREC)

Switzerland aligned its national environmental monitoring and reporting system , according to the SEIS principles,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We undertake a variety of environmental assessments but this cycle is not influenced by the Efe

CAREC:

Involvement of Central Asia into the Assessment of Assessments activities was a significant step toward involvement of Central Asian countries in to SEIS oriented cooperation initiative in the Pan-European region. The main objective of this initiative is to simplify the system for collecting, sharing and using environmental data between different users. SEIS development in CA countries is implementing via several projects implemented by or with CAREC. CAREC has established respective networks of experts, initiated a SEIS working groups and identified main challenges and opportunities for the development of the systems to produce indicator based environmental reports. At the moment CAREC implements three projects that supports the introduction of the SEIS concept in CA.

4.7. Participation in the continued work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force, including on the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and on greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (*by your country*)

CZECH REPUBLIC:

From 5 to 6 March 2013, the Czech Republic hosted a meeting “Regional expert meeting on measuring progress towards green growth in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia” under the umbrella of the EAP TF.

GERMANY:

Germany continues to support the work of the EAP Task Force, which in our view provides a very effective framework for supporting the implementation of the EfE political priorities.

NETHERLANDS:

The Netherlands supported a number of environmental projects by EAP Taskforce, mainly on restructuring environmental policies in EECCA countries and on strengthening implementation and enforcement.

ROMANIA:

The proposed 7th EU Environment Action Programme aims to put into practice the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe. We consider this Programme an efficient way to demonstrate how the environmental policy can contribute to the development of the green economy, the improvement of health and well-being by 2020.

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland is the Bureau of the EAP TF and is active as a donor country for the EAP TF activities (Green Economy, Water), especially in Central Asia.

CAREC:

CAREC implemented the Central Asian Assessment of Assessments on water and water related ecosystems and the resource efficiency/green economy (2011-2012) in cooperation with EEA, UNECE, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection of Italy.

In 2013 CAREC implements the AoA on air, wastes, biodiversity and climate change in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan with support of FOEN.

ECO ACCORD:

Not foreseen during last years

ECO-TIRAS:

Until now the sustainable management of water and water related ecosystems application at least in EECCA region is going hard because of the lack of understanding, weak transboundary water cooperation, old legal framework and conflict of interests between the Parties and or water users.

4.8. Participation in strengthening the contribution of Regional Environmental Centres in both promoting green economy and better environmental governance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels (*by your country*)

AUSTRIA:

We have close cooperation with REC-Szentendre.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The Czech Republic, as a signatory to REC CEE Charter and REC Moldova Charter, has supported financially both the organization and projects, and was also an active member of the Board of Directors of REC Moldova.

GERMANY:

Germany continues to support selected project activities of the Regional Environmental Centres in promoting green economy and better environmental governance.

NETHERLANDS:

The Netherlands supported a number of projects by RECs, directed at strengthening governance, transparency, access and participation.

POLAND:

Example of good cooperation: Poland as a Presidency in Visegrad Group (July 2012- June 2013) organized for V4+ countries with participation of regional offices of REC and UNEP seminar on sharing best practices in green economy. During the seminar it was underlined that many environmental challenges could be transformed into economic opportunities, not only reversing negative environmental trends, but also promoting growth, competitiveness, jobs and poverty eradication. It was also stressed that a green economy offers opportunities for countries at all stages of economic development. Economic growth can be promoted in numerous ways, including investments and innovations, more efficient use of natural, human and financial resources and by preventing damage to the environment and human health.

Eco-innovations are central in ensuring a more eco-efficient use of resources and promoting a major change in production and consumption patterns. Eco-innovations can also be non-technological. New business models, management schemes, work practices and forms of city planning may be as important as technological innovation.

Green economy is an important tool for sustainable development and it should be implemented

at all levels. During the Warsaw seminar partners had possibility to exchange experiences from international, regional and national levels.

At the regional level, REC plays an important role in achieving green economy objectives by promoting resources efficiency, eco-innovation, capacity building and know-how among Central and Eastern Europe countries through implementation of a number of projects. REC presented four projects endeavouring to boost green economy in Central and Eastern Europe, namely: GREECO, Regions for Sustainable Change, Improving access to green financing – CEE and Ukraine and Potential for stimulating sustainable growth in the water industry sector in the EU and the marine sector e.

ROMANIA:

Romanian Country Office of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe considers that green economy is a cross-sectorial challenge which cannot be addressed, globally, regionally, nationally, without synergies, therefore, important sectors like Environment, Economy, Transport, Agriculture, Health should be approached in an integrated manner

SWITZERLAND:

Switzerland supports financially activities in promoting green economy, PES, RPEA, SEIS in Central Asia through CAREC.

ECO ACCORD:

No Russian stakeholders see benefits of REC at all.

5. Thematic priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process for the Eighth Ministerial Conference

5.1. First thematic priority (an “established” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g., the Astana Conference addressed the “established” theme of sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems)

Please propose a theme:

AUSTRIA:

Sustainable use of hydro power

BELARUS:

1. Отходы 2. Целевые показатели и мониторинг окружающей среды 3. Готовность к ЧС и уменьшение риска катастроф.

CROATIA:

... Education for sustainable development

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Sustainable Transport in Cities and Green economy: making the link between health, environment and prosperity

FINLAND:

Climate change – impacts and actions

FRANCE:

Suivi des engagements de Rio+20 par la CEE-NU.

GEORGIA:

Applying integrated approaches to the management of water resources

GREECE:

Contribution of Regional processes like the EfE and of Regional Commissions to the post-2015 Development Agenda and to the new Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development after Pio+20

ISRAEL:

Adaptation to climate change

MOLDOVA:

Waste management and air quality

SLOVENIA:

Biodiversity

SWITZERLAND:

No specific idea at that time. It depends also where the next conference will take place.

ECO-TIRAS:

- 1) Raising of effectiveness of the transboundary water agreements in EECCA region
- 2) Environment as a stakeholder in transboundary waters management

FRIENDS OF SIBERIAN FORESTS:

Устойчивое управление лесными ресурсами

ZHABAGLY-MANAS:

Управление питательными веществами

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

AUSTRIA:

A potential future key issue is the Water-Food-Energy Nexus. Part of this key issue and one of the recent key issues in the Danube region as well as in the Alpine region is to reconcile hydro power generation and water ecology. Guidelines have been adopted and recommended for application by the contracting parties of the ICPDR as well as of the Alpine Convention.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The pollution in cities, stemming from unsustainable transport patterns, is one of the most

urgent issues in cities across the whole pan-European region. Many thousands deaths are caused by the particulate matter (PM) and accidents. Unsustainable transport patterns also contribute to the GHG emissions worldwide. The change in unsustainable transport patterns could include in building up the capacities in Green Economy (development of hybrid/electric cars, use of economic instruments in inducing behavioural change etc.).

FRANCE:

La huitième conférence ministérielle du processus “Un environnement pour l'Europe” pourrait être l'occasion d'avoir une réflexion stratégique globale sur le suivi des engagements, au niveau régional, de la Conférence des Nations unies sur le développement durable, Rio+20 dans le cadre de l'agenda post 2015.

GEORGIA:

Now all countries recognize that their future water resources management should follow an integrated approach. Many countries have developed new laws, policies and plans, adopting a systems approach with the river basin as the unit of planning and implementation. However, these reforms are complex and long term and many countries are still in an early stage of implementation. The need for a more integrated approach to water resources management is evident and deserves greater attention when considering the identified threats to water security from increasing urbanization, population growth, pollution and a more variable climate, as reported from the consultations. This also included the need for better coordination between water using sectors, including agriculture, energy, industry etc.

GERMANY:

Some general remarks: It could be considered to organize sub-regional high level conferences – instead of an UNECE wide conference. Conferences focussing on a smaller and more homogeneous group of countries could in our view result in much more concrete outcomes and more productive discussions about cooperation within sub-regions. This would have implications for the selection of topics. Topics should then be selected according to the particular relevance in the different sub-regions.

GREECE:

As we approach the deadline for the achievement of the MDGs, i.e. 2015, we have to soon formulate a new post 2015 development framework where emphasis would go beyond just development to also cover sustainable development, since the eradication of poverty in all its dimensions and the promotion of sustainable development are intrinsically linked, mutually reinforcing and should be integrated into a single overarching post 2015 framework. Therefore the next EfE Ministerial at the wake of the post-2015 period would be an opportune time to discuss how this new all-inclusive global development framework could be translated into practical objectives at the Regional/UNECE level.

Moreover, at Rio+20 there was agreement that a High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development be established, abolishing the UNCSD, aiming to strengthen political commitment and visibility for promoting sustainable development. Negotiations on the establishment of the HLPF are coming to an end, with the formulation of a final draft Resolution to be submitted by 30.6.2013 to the PGA, according to which “the UNGA acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including

through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate". Therefore, the next EfE Ministerial EfE could also discuss how this new structure as well as the new UNEA should receive input from the regional level and in particular regional processes on Environment like EfE.

ISRAEL:

Climate change is widely considered to be one of the most potentially serious environmental problems facing the world community. Countries worldwide have placed climate change high on their list of environmental priorities; Israel is no different. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the scientific intergovernmental body established to provide decision makers and others with an objective source of information about climate change, global greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004. The IPCC assesses with very high confidence that the globally averaged net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming. The "best case" climate models estimate that the average global temperature will rise by 1.8° C to 4.0° C by the year 2100. A temperature increase of 0.74° C occurred last century and for the next two decades, a warming of about 0.2° C per decade is projected should greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at their current pace and are allowed to double from their pre-industrial level. This will have an immense negative impact worldwide; hence, climate change should be the first thematic priority.

MOLDOVA:

Waste management is one of the environmental priorities in Moldova. Waste problem is a problem at local level. Impact of wastes on water and soil quality is significant.

Taking in consideration that air quality has significant impact to human health and also in air sector not are many activities, especially in approximation of the EU legislation and standards.

SLOVENIA:

This is a very important topic for the whole continent so it would be useful to discuss topics as how to prevent biodiversity loss also at the EfE conferences.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We are not yet convinced of the need for an eight Ministerial Conference. If there is a Conference it should consider a theme of how innovation can contribute to a cleaner environment.

EEB:

European ECO Forum will have its internal discussions on possible themes and will have its proposal ready for the upcoming CEP meeting in October 2013.

FRIENDS OF SIBERIAN FORESTS:

Обсуждаемая в 2012-2013 годах Лесная конвенция для Европы и Центральной Азии проводится без учета мнений НПО и без учета мнений Министерств экологии. Текст в нынешнем виде является слабым (минимальный общий знаменатель) и не добавляет ничего нового к законам стран. В таком виде принимать Лесную конвенцию нельзя, необходимо подключить к переговорам представителей Министерств экологии и НПО.

ZHABAGLY-MANAS:

Проблема потерь питательных веществ, содержащихся в продуктах питания, и загрязнения ими водных ресурсов, умалчивается и не рассматривается официальными органами на всех уровнях. Ни одного слова нет об этом и в принятой концепции перехода к «Зеленой экономике», как нет ни одного слова и об органическом земледелии. Казахстан по-прежнему нацелен на химизацию сельского хозяйства и продолжение субсидирования производства минеральных удобрений, которые не только способствуют деградации земель и понижению качества выращиваемой продукции, но и само их производство сильно загрязняет окружающую среду. Положительные тенденции в этой сфере наметились лишь в Кыргызстане и Узбекистане.

5.2. Second thematic priority (an “emerging” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g., the Astana Conference addressed the “emerging” theme of greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development)

Please propose a theme:

CROATIA:

Efficient use of resources

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Through education and information towards environmentally sound policies

FINLAND:

Urban development

Greening of financing

FRANCE:

L'eau et la mise en oeuvre de l'objectif de développement durable (ODD) lié.

GEORGIA:

Strengthening the role of financial institutions in the greening the economy

GREECE:

Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication: mainstreaming the environment into economic development and social considerations.

ISRAEL:

Sustainable consumption and production

MOLDOVA:

We consider that Green Economy can be second priority theme in next Ministerial Conference.

POLAND:

Sharing the best practices in green economy

ROMANIA:

schemes for green investments

SLOVENIA:

Sea

SWITZERLAND:

Green Economy / Greening financing IFI (follow up Astana + Rio+20 commitments)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Integrating environmental information in policy decisions and development planning. and decision making

BIOTICA:

Mainstreaming the major ecosystem services in the national accounting systems: searching the ways on the background of different economics development.

CAREC:

Strengthening sub regional environmental governance

EEA:

Green economy (an integrated theme which might have different elements to be addressed: resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, ecosystem resilience, green jobs etc.)

GREEN LIBERTY:

Implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programs

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

AUSTRIA:

General Note: All of the following responses should be seen from the perspective of the needs of the EECCA countries.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Since 1992, when Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration declared civic involvement vital for sound environmental decision-making, the Aarhus Convention has played a significant role in putting it into practice. In the era of information society and advanced electronic tools, the civic involvement has proved essential – still, there are many barriers world-wide to effective public participation, the UNECE region including. However, civil involvement must be supported by comprehensive education to gain its full potential. Education is critical for improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues. It is also critical for achieving environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour and for effective public participation in decision-making.

FRANCE:

Sans préjuger des débats sur la définition d'objectifs de développement durable, la Conférence pourrait se pencher plus spécifiquement sur des thèmes qui auront été identifiés et pour lesquels la CEE-NU est très impliquée (par exemple le sujet de l'eau).

GEORGIA:

Financial institutions should play a crucial role in greening the economy at all levels.

GREECE:

The second thematic priority of the previous Astana EfE Ministerial is still valid as an inclusive and equitable green economy, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. This was underlined in Rio+20 by the international community. In this context, it is important to explore regional objectives for ensuring respect to the planetary boundaries, tackling the unsustainable use and management of natural resources, the degradation of ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, pollution, climate change and natural disasters, as well as for addressing inequalities, resilience to stress and external shocks in promoting social inclusion, social protection floors and decent work for all.

ISRAEL:

It is widely recognized today that the transition to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production is necessary. The SWITCH-Med sustainable consumption and production program aims to promote a switch of the Mediterranean economies toward sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economies. It also seeks to minimize the environmental impacts associated with the life cycle of products and services, and when relevant, to promote renewable energy. The program has three components. The first being: A policy component works to further integrate sustainable production and consumption into the regional Mediterranean policy and governance framework;

The second being: demonstration component uses national or regional projects to promote more sustainable production and consumption methods. These projects will promote environmental technologies and be environmentally beneficial, while also empowering civil society and promoting green entrepreneurship; and the third being the networking component that allows for information exchanges, lesson learning, and replication of successful initiatives.

This initiative is necessary on both the local and global level.

POLAND:

In our view in a green economy many environmental challenges can be transformed into economic opportunities, not only reversing negative environmental trends, but also promoting future growth, competitiveness, jobs. Green economy offers opportunities for countries at all stages of economic development. In particular, sustainable use of resources, such as water, energy, land and infrastructure development, forests as well as materials constitute the foundations of any economy – and in particular of a green economy. The livelihoods of many people across the world depend on them, in particular in developing countries, where the lack of access to quality resources and the need for expertise on how to manage them sustainably, are important underlying causes of poverty. In this light, areas such as water, energy, sustainable land use and infrastructure development, forests, and many others could become the green economy's key growth markets, underpinning future economic development, the creation of jobs and the eradication of poverty, in particular in developing countries.

ROMANIA:

We must focus on the development of sectors that can support this process, such as schemes for green investments for the promotion of technologies regarding the use of renewable energies, the sustainable management of waste, forests and water, rehabilitation of buildings, which are fields with high potential for the efficient use of resources.

SLOVENIA:

We face a lot of problems also regarding the sea from various points of view so it is important to address the whole variety of open questions regarding the sea and its preservation.

BIOTICA:

This is one of the major challenges for greening the economy because support to sustainability of ecosystems that provide human population with food, oxygen, soil and water protection is not assessed by economy. Currently developing Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity provide and progress a methodological basis for this theme. However practical ways for incorporation of that direction in national economy systems are problematic. At the same time the Outcome of the United Nations Rio+20 Conference “The future we want” (doc. A/CONF.216/L.1), which highlights the vital importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development and human well-being, has created juridical link between biodiversity services and human rights. Therefore that direction should be prioritised through the EfE process.

CAREC:

Further regional –respectively sub-regional integration requires the strengthening of sub regional environmental governance. The fragmentation related to the environmental governance reflects and is strongly felt on the level of information, knowledge sharing and data

management in sub-regions of the EfEregion. There is a lack of regional inter-sectoral protocol/agreement for data and information exchange, as well as for harmonization of qualitative and quantitative monitoring data and systems related to various environmental parameters. Additionally, there is a lack of sub-regional agreements on the coordination role of the Ministries of Environment related to data processing and analysis in the field of the environment, on their function as the main repositories of environmental information.

EEA:

To be able to assess progress since last conference. The topic was very new in Astana and the recommendation of EEA- AoA report was to revisit the topic and assess progress if possible at the next conference

5.2.1. Enhancing the work on greening the economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into economic development

This is a possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Astana EfE and Rio+20 Conference commitments

AUSTRIA:

Green economy could be an overarching goal for both western countries and EECCA Countries in making future development more sustainable. While the concern of the industrialized economies is how to reduce environmental risks and keep the economy green, the concern of the less developed economies is how growth can be promoted without degrading the natural resource base and with respect for the principles of a sustainable economy.

BULGARIA:

It will be useful to follow up the implementation of the commitments from the Astana EfE and Rio+20 Conferences

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Considering the overwhelming surge in studies/work on the greening economy issue, it seems undesirable to add more to the ongoing discussions within the main global fora (UNEP, OECD, WB).

GEORGIA:

Economic development of the countries should not be considered without taking into account environmental issues to avoid huge damages to ecosystems. Therefore, EfE Ministerial Conference is a right forum to promote mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development.

GERMANY:

Any topic in the context of Green Economy should be addressed either within sub-regional conferences or be discussed within sub-regional round tables – in case the UNECE wide format of conferences prevails. One idea could be to have discussions among countries of the individual sub-groups about establishing roadmaps for Green Economies (please see below on p. 14).

In any case should a Green Economy topic for a new conference – either sub-regional or UNECE wide – be designed in clear distinction to the Astana Conference as not to replicate dialogues of the past.

GREECE:

See above

ISRAEL:

The key message of the Greening the Economy with Agriculture concept note submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Rio+20 states: “As the single largest sector using 60 percent of the world’s ecosystems and providing livelihoods for 40 percent of today’s global population, the food and agriculture sector is critical to greening the economy. There will be no green economy without agriculture.” Israel’s breakthrough agricultural technologies are globally recognized. They have led to more efficient water and fertilizer use per unit of output and they have earned Israel the reputation of a world leader in the reclamation of effluents for agricultural irrigation. However, Israel’s high rate of population and economic growth has increased the competition for scarce land and water resources among all sectors. Moreover, the impact of the intensive agriculture on the environment remains a challenge and major efforts are now being directed toward reducing the impacts – decreasing the pollution of water and air, the degradation of the land and the pressure on biodiversity. The challenge today is to better integrate the country’s agricultural, environmental, water and energy policies so as to continue to guarantee Israel’s population food security while minimizing the use of natural resources and safeguarding the health of the environment. Based on past performance, this challenge too will be met.

NORWAY:

As we see it this is the main challenge in this area, but the proposed theme is too broad.

POLAND:

These issues are extremely important from the post-Rio+20 perspective, particularly in the context of transition to a green economy by promoting sustainable energy access, resource efficient productivity and creating new and decent jobs. All these issues were reflected in the Conference outcome document “The Future We Want”.

ROMANIA:

Romania supports the implementation of the provisions of the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future we want, including those regarding the institutional framework for sustainable development . At the same time, Romania considers that in the process of transition to a green economy, based on new green skills, education and training are the tools that can ensure the necessary link between understanding, deepening and solving problems related to the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable development.

SLOVAKIA:

Current economic situation in many countries has caused that environmental issues are not on the top of the list of priorities. An approach that tries to combine economic and environmental issues together and, thus promote economic and environmental development at the same time should become the priority of discussion and analysis. Strategies to achieve greener growth are needed. A return to “business as usual” would be unwise and ultimately unsustainable.

Slovakia is of the opinion that concept of green economy in the context of sustainable development is a suitable policy instrument for mobilization and strengthening international cooperation for achieving more ambitious results in the framework of sustainable development. Slovak Republic is of the opinion that a wide range of instruments is needed for achieving the results of a green, inclusive and competitive economy– i.e. economic ones (taxes, charges, cap-and-trade systems, subsidies, support schemes, etc), but also command-and-control (CAC) instruments (in the area where markets do not exist or do exist, but with the market failure). For the each sector (with specific circumstances) the specific policy instruments are required to achieve the green economy. Of course, there have to be coherence between them in order to gain yield from synergy effects. However, all of the instruments have to fulfil at least one condition – the effectiveness (cost effectiveness) of the instrument for achieving the goal (green economy). Also, the instruments should be designed so that sustainable production or consumption will be favoured against unsustainable. The important role in this area plays voluntary instruments and information instruments.

SWITZERLAND:

Very interesting theme to be discussed at the regional level and which could attract Ministers to the next EfE Conference.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

If a Conference is held this would be an important issue.

BIOTICA:

That is important but secondary theme relatively the theme “Need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, the on-going crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region”. These both themes should be combined.

CAREC:

While the support to any activities to facilitate the framework of legal and administrative frameworks on greening the economy is laudable, the main initiative should come from the emerging private sector in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus region and the Central Asia. More than 30 years ago, first bi- and multilateral activities

were initiated (UNEP) to integrate environmental considerations into economic development. So far, the private sector mentioned above have only responded in an anecdotal manner, given the existing investment frameworks in those regions.

ECO ACCORD:

Yes, but at higher level (Prime-Ministers)

EEA:

The EEA identifies the following key issues and challenges within this area:

- Developing measures and indicators to accompany the conventional economic growth measure (GDP growth rates) for measuring progress by integrating environmental and social aspects (economic growth and well-being)
- Identify policies that support the transition to a green economy (i.e. green economy policies including the reform / phase out of environmentally harmful subsidies and environmental taxation) and which are not hampering the economic development of emerging and developing countries by using environmental considerations for impeding international trade
- Securing private and public finance as massive financial investments are required for the transition process towards a green economy (i.e. investments into infrastructure)
- Pointing out that increasing resource efficiency is necessary and a precondition for achieving absolute decoupling but also stating that increasing resource efficiency is not a sufficient requirement for a green economy

Several of these key topics are discussed in recently published (or soon to be published) EEA reports including:

- Environmental indicator report 2012 – Ecosystem resilience and resource efficiency in a green economy in Europe (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2012>)
- Towards a green economy in Europe —EU environmental policy targets and objectives 2010–2050 (forthcoming)
- Environmental indicator report 2013 – Natural resources and well-being (forthcoming)
- Green fiscal reform – policy approach creating sustainable growth <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/fiscal-reform-can-create-jobs>

	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN LIBERTY:</p> <p>Most of the countries in the region has experience economic recession which has led in many cases to weakening environmental policies. It's important to work towards new economic development models which take into account social wellbeing and environmental boundaries.</p>
<p>5.2.2. Promoting sustainable consumption and production</p>	<p>This is a possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conference commitments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>This topic is especially beneficial for less developed countries as it provides an opportunity for “leapfrogging” to more resource-efficient, environmentally sound and competitive technologies, allowing them to bypass inefficient and polluting phases of development.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>It should be taken into account that the elaboration of the five programmes under the 10YFPSCP is at a very initial phase. It is necessary to fulfil the whole the 5-steps model for consultation and elaboration of the programmes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>This generally very pressing and horizontal topic (energy, waste, recycling) is of an extreme importance – however, as we have seen in the case of Sweden (only) that is about to adopt an EU-first ever strategy on sustainable consumption and production, it's also an extremely difficult and potentially controversial theme (considering the ongoing economic crisis to which policymakers – G8,G20 – are responding mainly in terms of the non-green framework).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>If chosen, need to be focused and concrete. Subregional roadmaps,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>SCP is one of the main challenges around the world, therefore it's very important to address this issue by the high level forums.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GERMANY:</p> <p>Same as above.</p>

GREECE:

Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns is key for promoting a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Recent developments after Rio+20 such as the operationalisation of the 10-year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10 YFP) as a major tool for accelerating the change of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production should be examined from the regional perspective.

ISRAEL:

Delegates at Rio+20 concluded that coming up with a 10-year Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) program was a priority. As a result, Israel is currently focusing efforts on creating a SCP program.

Green Production: There is no contradiction between industrial development and environmental performance. However, new directions are needed to remove such obstacles as bureaucratic and inconvenient licensing procedures, changing regulatory requirements, lack of centralized information, and inadequate government support. Industry expressed its readiness to improve its environmental performance based on pollution prevention at source, implementation of best available technology and efficient use of resources in return for greater regulatory certainty. Based on the understanding that industry is the regulator's client, not its enemy, means were sought to improve the provision of services and information to industry by such means as a green growth knowledge center, simplification of complex licensing procedures and financial support for a transition to improved environmental performance and technological innovation. Innovation was identified as a major engine for sustainable industrial growth.

Green Consumption: Changes in consumption patterns impact the market as a whole, bringing in their wake changes in producer behavior, greener products and services, green standards, green public procurement and more. There is lack of clarity as to what constitutes a green product and that reliable information is needed in order to impact on consumption patterns. There is a focus on consumption patterns of all sectors—industry, local authorities, government and households—based on the recognition that we are all consumers.

NORWAY:

10-year framework programmes for SCP will have been running for approximately 2 years. Evaluating status in UNECE region?

POLAND:

In particular, focusing on promotion of sustainable consumption patterns. Implementation of 10-Year Framework Programme for SCP is

one of the most important issues as well. Many countries participate in the UNEP “Platform Cleaninghouse”, which gives opportunity to create international network for exchange of views, lessons learned and best practices.

ROMANIA:

As the body that will monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Rio+20 Conference outcome and the international processes initiated by it, the HLPF could also play a central role in monitoring the implementation of SDGs, as well as other processes, such as the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). In this regard, the UNECE states should contribute to the finalisation of these processes, through their contributions during the working groups established in the UN system for their implementation. Romania will actively participate to this end together with the other states in the Small Board on the implementation of the 10YFP.

SLOVAKIA:

Slovakia thinks that 10- year framework for Sustainable consumption and production as well as sustainable public procurement and sustainable lifestyle are the most relevant programmes not only for Slovakia, but at the time of global financial and economic crisis also for other countries. We would like to see this work to continue also in the forthcoming period, as its relevance is even higher in the green economy context. We perceive the “EfE work” in this field as very important and supportive as a source of expert information that can be further used and developed in national policies and strategies.

Sustainable consumption and production is related to economic development and at the same time covers also social/labour issues and environmental issueless (energy, materials management, etc.). From this point of view, first two topics may be complementary.

SWEDEN:

All countries agreed in Rio on a global Framework of programmes on SCP and to shift to a sustainable consumption and production and support developing countries in this process. SCP is a precondition to reduce climate change and to make the management of our resources more efficient. The purpose of the Framework is to support regional and national initiatives and the UNECE region could take the lead to showcase that sustainable consumption and production not only results in environmental benefits but also social benefits and business development including new jobs.

SWITZERLAND:

Very interesting theme (incl. implementation / lessons learnt of 10 Years Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production

(10YFP) as a concrete result of Rio)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Resource productivity should be considered instead.

CAREC:

While we observe a changing pattern in consumption also in the Central Asian region, the continuous low level of production of consumer goods in the region make this an interesting subject, however with a limited impact in the Central Asian region.

ECO ACCORD:

Yes, but at higher level (Prime-Ministers)

EEA:

Key issues and challenges within this area have been identified by the EEA in our recently published reports as listed below. The most important issues and challenges include:

- Decoupling resource use and associated environmental impacts from economic growth
- Minimise lifecycle environmental pressures in Europe and other regions of the world from consumption in Europe
- Meet EU waste policy target and objectives 2014-18 including full implementation of waste policies, the phasing out of waste landfilling, absolute reduction of waste generation and using waste as a resource.
- Move towards a recycling society and sustainable materials management.

More details are available in recently published reports:

SCP:

- Consumption and the environment, 2012 update
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/consumption-and-the-environment-2012>
- Environmental pressures from European consumption and production
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-pressures-from-european-consumption>
- Resource efficiency policies in Europe – policies and approaches in 31 EEA and member countries (2011)

	<p>http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resource-efficiency-in-europe</p> <p>Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing municipal solid waste – a review of achievements in 32 European countries http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-municipal-solid-waste• Movements of waste across the EU’s internal and external borders http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/movements-of-waste-EU-2012• Material resources and waste – 2012 update http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/material-resources-and-waste-2014 <p style="text-align: center;">GREEN LIBERTY:</p> <p>The 10 Year Framework of Programs was adopted at Rio+20 and the General Assembly and UNEP is tasked as Secretariat to (finally) implement this initiative, which could be beneficial to everyone,. Each country has been invited to nominate national 10YFP focal points, which is an especially important development as we now have someone within each government to engage on this, rather than trying to find out who might be interested (e.g., the Marrakech Task Force leaders). It also implies there will be a certain monitoring and reporting on progress.</p>
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**5.2.3. “Greening”
the policies of the
international
financial
institutions (IFIs)**

This is a possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conference commitments

AUSTRIA:

The international financial institutions (IFIs) will play a key role in financing the new sustainable development agenda. Yet at the same time, the IFIs face constraints that limit their ability to promote sustainable development. This topic could identify some of the challenges in order to help IFIs begin to support the implementation of green economy

BULGARIA:

This is a theme beyond the competences of ministers to some extent and it should be taken into account that EIE is a regional process, while IFIs are global.

FINLAND:

(Re)involvement of IFIs in the process and discussion on green aspects of financing is a possible and interesting theme.

GEORGIA:

IFIs should play an important role in greening economy through considering precautionary principle while financing particular activities.

GERMANY:

Follow-up would require continuous engagement of IFIs in the process. It is uncertain whether this can be realized.

GREECE:

This proposed issue is of great importance however such a discussion should be better placed at the international level (e.g. HLPF or UNEA of UNEP) to ensure greater impact and results.

NORWAY:

This could be highly relevant, but could benefit from a broader view on the role of private sector and financial markets more generally.

POLAND:

UN ECE is not fully relevant forum to discuss greening of international financial institutions, as they are rather global coverage. However, to enable transition towards an inclusive green economy, we must start

putting into place the right market conditions, including inter alia the use of fiscal incentives. We must enhance access to public, private and public-private finance and explore innovative means to increase investments. And we must significantly improve private sector engagement, as well as the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, also in mobilizing financial resources needed for transformation to green economy. The role of international financial institutions to recognize and support “green” agenda is important.

ROMANIA:

Moving to a green economy should be defined as a strict set of rules, but each state should establish implementing measures depending on its circumstances and capabilities. In this respect, elaborating a National Action Plan regarding the green economy is essential.

SLOVAKIA:

IFIs will play an important role in financing sustainable development. IFIs will bring valuable expertise in designing financial transactions and sharing knowledge across countries. The mandate of IFIs is to promote economic growth and we support the IFIs work in this field.

SWEDEN:

While this is an important issue, further clarification is needed on the content and purpose of the proposed conference.

SWITZERLAND:

This theme is very relevant and could be linked to the previous one. Other ministries should be strongly involved (economy, finance) as well as other institutions (IFIs, Finance sector) and organisations/initiatives on Green Economy (i.e. Green Growth Knowledge Platform).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The focus should be on action at the national level.

CAREC:

Following the report on environmental deficiencies within the lending policies of the IFIs thirty years ago, (“Bankrolling disaster”), a joint initiative was founded by UNEP called CIDIE (Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment) which comprises all major IFIs.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ECO ACCORD:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes, but at higher level (Prime-Ministers)</p>
<p>5.2.4. Resilience and change</p>	<p>This is a possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to encompass the need for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness and contingency planning to be ready for both environmental and demographic change in the coming years, i.e., the expected increase in extreme weather events due to global warming, but also the expected changes in demographics (aging populations and South-North migration), in particular in urban areas)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>This is a very interesting and topical theme and but thus formulated it is too broad and goes significantly beyond the competences of ministers of environment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>Not too much relevant to the UNECE region as the tools available within the UNECE environmental portfolio focus mainly on transboundary issues that are partly but not decisively related to above mentioned topics (apart from the Industrial Accidents Convention, of course).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>Resilience as such too general and vague, and covers too many factors – if chosen, needs to be well focused and concrete issues addressed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GERMANY:</p> <p>This topic should be addressed either within sub-regional conferences or be discussed within sub-regional groups – in case the UNECE wide format of conferences prevails.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>The issue of adaptation is clearly a key one for all countries. Especially as the new legally binding agreement to replace the Kyoto protocol will have to be adopted by 2015 so as to be implemented starting from 2020, a regional perspective to adaptation efforts could be useful. However, care should be taken that discussions at the regional / UNECE level do not duplicate international negotiations in the UNFCCC context, especially since UNECE countries have a very uneven approach to climate change issues and to the new legally binding instrument. Moreover, it should also be taken into account that the adaptation needs</p>

of countries in the UNECE Region vary greatly since climate change impacts are different through out the region (e.g. floods in the north and heat waves in the south).

ISRAEL:

Integrated risk management and resilience building is a strategy that seeks to identify risks and tackle them. It is anticipated that risks of every kind—political, economic, social, or environmental—will intensify in the future and measures will have to be taken to anticipate and prepare for these risks while building up resilience.

The project-titled Sustainability Outlook 2030—aims to grapple with major questions concerning past and present trends in Israel in order to prepare long-term strategies and policy packages for a sustainable future. It aims to build a vision of sustainability, which would enable Israel’s decision makers to understand the implications of existing trends, recognize disparities in pursuit of the vision, and identify routes by which Israel could progress towards achieving the vision. The goal is that in 2030 the population of Israel will have a high quality of life but one that preserves environmental resources for future generations and maintains ecosystem services of high resilience. To promote and enhance implementation, Outlook 2030 identified three basic policy packages, risk reduction and management, coordinated governance aimed at promoting sustainability, and environmental management at the community, local and business level.

NORWAY:

We believe that these issues will have a particular relevance in the same year that post 2015 development agenda and universal sustainable development goals will come into existence.

POLAND:

Adaptation to climate change should be identified as one of the top priorities.

SLOVAKIA:

Supporting proactive engagement in negotiating some of the world’s most intractable problems, like threats to natural resources, affecting water and food security. Discussions should aim to contribute to knowledge development and capacity building in support of the region’s „climate security“ diplomats in negotiations; advance international cooperation on the environment; address questions of reform in promoting engagement, accountability and transparency in the governance of the international environmental regime.

SWEDEN:

While this is an important issue, further clarification is needed on the content and purpose of the proposed conference.

BIOTICA:

Current prospects and forecasts make this theme the most important taking into account enough short expectation period, probable period of implementation of adaptation measures, continuous economic crisis, low readiness of many governments to implement these measures step by step on the basis of mid- and long term plan, as well as still “transitional period” in EECCA and some EU countries.

CAREC:

Governments throughout the entire EfE region face the critical challenge of promoting sustainable and equitable economic development in the context of climate variability and change. Ecologically fragile regions are home to millions of people and their livelihoods, businesses and economies are highly sensitive to climate impacts. Addressing the challenge is critical for the future in particular of semi-arid regions,

5.3 A high-level segment on assessing the progress in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing the SEIS across the region should be organized

BULGARIA:

The establishment and development of the SEIS in the pan-European region was one of the priorities of the 7th Ministerial Conference and it will be good the Ministers to assess the progress made at the 8th EfE Conference

CZECH REPUBLIC:

While there is a need to further explore this issue, the high-level segment should be focused on issues of political relevance – the SEIS is of great importance but its potential to be of interest to ministers is questionable also considering the delays and problems of SEIS implementation in the pan-European region (CEP information).

FINLAND:

It certainly would be worthwhile to consider different approaches to facilitate and accelerate the process to establish RPEA. A high level segment could be one possibility, but it still may be too early for this.

GERMANY:

Any such considerations should in our view be postponed until a more concrete concept has been developed.

GREECE:

The development of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) is important especially after Rio+20 where the need to bring together dispersed information and assessments on the state of the environment (in the context of the new UNEA of UNEP) or on sustainable development (e.g. for the development of a global sustainable development report in the context of the HLPF) and to also strengthen the science-policy interface has been highlighted and underlined. However, the development of a regular assessment and reporting process might not be a theme for a political discussion during an EfE high-level segment.

POLAND:

Developing assessment as well as assessment of assessment and SEIS are the most effective mechanisms of the EfE process. It could be one of the topic during the high-level segment during ministerial EFE conference

SLOVAKIA:

We strongly support to organize this high-level segment. Development of the SEIS at national and international levels is a very important and cost-effective tool.

SWITZERLAND:

The theme is important and could be tackled during a parallel roundtable but it is probably not attractive enough to be discussed in the HL segment/plenary.

CAREC:

Rather than establishing a high level segment on assessing the progress on SEIS, a high level segment might be called upon to review the limitations of how far environmental data influence policy making at the governmental level

EEA:

this discussion is an umbrella one and should have panels on content, infrastructure and cooperation cutting across themes and international partners

5.4 A high-level segment on ECE MEAs should be organized

BULGARIA:

Such a segment will be very useful Ministers to exchange information on the progress of ratification and implementation of MEAs.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

The UNECE MEAs each have, with little exceptions, regular meeting of parties where there are H-L Segments envisaged. Therefore, it's advisable to keep the thematic H-L segments for the respective MOPs.

FINLAND:

The implementation of UNECE MEAs has high priority in the Efe context as well as in UNECE. – starting with enhancing ratification of the MEAs . The choice of themes and different ways of making such a segment interesting and fruitful for politicians needs consideration, and could include preparatory actions and meetings in the region.

GERMANY:

In principle, a high-level segment might in our view have the potential to give new impetus to implementation efforts. However, it could instead be considered to opt for separate high level conferences for individual MEAs upon special occasions such as recent amendments to Conventions or Protocols – when high level involvement is considered useful or necessary. Topics would then be selected accordingly.

GREECE:

The legal instruments of UNECE are many and with long history. An update on their implementation and guidance on next steps could be a theme for a political discussion during an EfE high-level segment.

ISRAEL:

Such a step might act to promote political commitment and enhance cooperation between countries.

POLAND:

Only in the context of presenting the concrete achievements of the MEAs implementation- as a part of the regional environmental assessment or other important agenda issue to be dealt with on political level with a view to clear output.

SWITZERLAND:

Very good idea!

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The MEAs meet regularly, if an EfE is held, it should provide a venue to discuss topics that are not on the agenda as regularly.

BIOTICA:

Harmonisation of MEAs reporting is currently developing important but limited theme. This direction will be developed following existent appointments. That means it may be politically strengthened by EfE; though, there is nothing to discuss politically. At the same time increasing the political will to follow and better implementing the MEAs and also developing the specific European instruments as the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity are conditioned by climate change and biodiversity loss challenges, strong need of adaptation as well as, politically, follow the Outcome of the United Nations Rio+20 Conference "The future we want".

CAREC:

The responsibility of implementing MEAs is truly national and a high level segment would only divert the responsibility away from national governments.

EEA:

SEIS needs to cut across the work of international organisations and MEAs, therefore these aspects need to be addressed together and not separately. No need as a separate segment but as part of the three SEIS panels - if we really want to change the way we work, collaborate and share...

<p>5.4.1. The role of public participation in effective implementation of MEAs</p>	<p>This is a possible theme for a high-level segment on ECE MEAs (of relevance to all ECE MEAs)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>This theme would confirm and strengthen the leading role of the UNECE region in asserting public participation on environmental matters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>The obligations of MEAs at the national level are implemented effectively when all stake-holders are participating where the public has important role..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GERMANY:</p> <p>N/A; please see answer to previous question.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>However, it might be too detailed a theme as a stand-alone theme for a political discussion during an EfE high-level segment. A broader theme, in the same direction, might be more attractive for a political debate e.g. encouraging the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in regional political processes (such as the EfE), legal instruments, initiatives and structures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>Multilateral Environmental Agreements provide a framework for the exchange of information and expertise in a myriad of environmental fields, including general environmental protection, nature conservation, combating desertification, and climate change. Implementation of these agreements takes different forms including exchange visits of professionals, workshops, research studies and joint projects on environmental problems of common interest.</p> <p>Is it recognized that public participation is important element in the context of environment and health issues. The public can be used as an additional tool to tackle environmental and health issues that could not be solved by the government alone. Since the public/stakeholders can both be the cause and solution of environmental issues, involving them in policy-making helps achieve a less biased and more efficient policy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>With the interactive presentation of the public achievements in the implementation of MEAs and ideas for further works.</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Important theme but not attractive enough for ministers...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>The MEAs meet regularly, if an EfE is held, it should provide a venue to discuss topics that are not on the agenda as regularly.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>This role of public participation was never assessed properly. It varies strongly dependently of country conditions, MEAs and environmental directions, donors policies etc. The great challenges for sustainable development including economy states and trends, biodiversity loss, climate change, demography and feed resources require mobilisation of governmental, intergovernmental, business and civil society efforts. That emphasizes significance of this theme for future human well-being.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>Undoubtedly the role of public participation needs to be strengthened throughout the EfE region, yet calling in a meeting of high level public servants is unlikely to strengthen public participation.</p>
<p>5.5. There is a need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, given the ongoing economic crisis that affected all countries in the ECE region</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>In current period of financial and economic difficulties in Europe and globally, the principal position of Bulgaria is that any proposals for creating and establishing new bodies and mechanisms should be carefully evaluated in terms of efficiency and added value. Efforts should be directed to the use and improvement of existing mechanisms to avoid the creation of parallel structures and additional layers of bureaucracy to the existing very complicated and heavy system at regional and global level.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>The UNECE should focus on deepening implementation of current and working structures and frameworks rather than creating new ones.</p>

FINLAND:

No strict new structures, but promotion of networking etc.

GERMANY:

If possible, existing structures should be used and – if necessary – be adjusted to changing framework conditions.

GREECE:

In line with what has been written above regarding the first and second thematic priorities for the next EfE Ministerial Conference.

ISRAEL:

We believe there are already adequate structures created by various organizations, such as UNEP, OECD etc

ITALY:

We are not in favour of creation of new structures, rather use existing frameworks/networks

POLAND:

In the framework of interactive discussion -. sharing the best practices in the area of green economy among the countries. To be precise, we do expect rather transformation of old structures into new ones instead of creating totally new in addition to the existing ones.

SWITZERLAND:

A large number of structures dealing with green economy exist already.. It is important to strengthen synergies between the existing bodies (i.e. UNECE could work closer with GGKP or PAGE) and avoid to create new structure or framework.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

There are already too many structures and frameworks; TOO MANY MEETINGS! THE CEP can handle new issues.

CAREC:

First of all clarification is needed what is being understood under the terms of “new structures” and or “frameworks”, before a clear statement can be provided.

<p>Greening the economies</p>	<p>5.5.1. Elaboration of subregional road maps (e.g. EU, South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">AUSTRIA:</p> <p>A new Roadmap could help ECCA-Countries and the Balkans to address emerging themes like green economy etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Elaboration of such maps is a good idea but should be made at subregional level, not in the framework of the Efe process.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>The added value of roadmaps in the highly complex area of greening the economy is questionable (different levels of economic development, highly different conditions throughout the UNECE region...etc.).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>The subregional approach in developing roadmaps is important. The development of useful concrete and pragmatic roadmaps is most efficient if the countries included have common features.</p> <p>PAGE (Partnership on Action on Green Economy by UN/ILO and UNEP and others) aims and could be an interesting concept for the EECCA region.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA:</p> <p>We think it will be more useful to have the common roadmap for EaP countries.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GERMANY:</p> <p>Roadmaps for greening the economy can in our view only be developed on a national basis (besides few issues, which might be tackled in a sub-regional context as well). However, an exchange of experience among countries of a sub-region could be considered. This could be a topic for either sub-regional conferences or for sub-regional roundtables at UNECE wide conferences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>An exchange could be indeed useful however it should be taken into account that certain sub-regions (e.g. the EU) have already developed, to a different degree of detail and “sophistication”, their own sub-regional roadmaps. For instance, the EU is implementing with great</p>

devotion the Europe 2020 Strategy and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. Sub-regional perspectives should be best seen from the view point of how they are integrated in an overall regional (UNECE wide) roadmap.

POLAND:

The green economy roadmaps should be country driven. There is a limited value added in creating a subregional roadmaps due to significant differences between countries, both due to natural conditions and level of development.

BIOTICA:

European ECO Forum suggested that item in its statement at the Astana Conference insisting on NGOs involvement in preparation of roadmaps in order to make it realistic and viable, based on true information and participation of independent experts. There is threat that such elaborations may be done in formal style by some international organisations (e.g. UNDP) influenced by governments and corruptive relations. Unfortunately green economy is (or was) out of priorities of the Eastern Partnership and EfE process could improve that situation. Elaboration of subregional roadmaps should be strategic direction of cooperation of environment and economy ministries with civil society organisations and science including the sectoral science.

CAREC:

The strength of this suggestion is to strengthen the subregional environmental governance structures, which are so weak in most sub regions of the EfE region.

ECO ACCORD:

It is in progress within the other processes

GREEN LIBERTY:

There are regional differences in regard to green economies which should be addressed and taken into account developing such a frameworks.

5.5.2. Elaboration/harmonization of regional eco-standards for products and production processes

BELARUS:

В то же время следует отметить что требования ВТО состоят в том, что необходимо уходить от региональных и национальных стандартов как препятствий глобальной торговли.

BULGARIA:

There already exist such standards. A better choice is to discuss their introduction and implementation at national level.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

There is ongoing work on the level of EU on these topics – the UNECE should focus on building synergies in this sense using the capacities already developed in the EU (workshops for EECCA countries within already existing bodies).

GREECE:

See rationale same as above

ISRAEL:

Standards—documents that contain technical specifications that apply to a product or technical procedures for production processes—are being amended in Israel, such that specifications and conditions for licensing of a particular industry will soon be found in one document. This will increase ease and efficiency for business owners. A similar approach will be effective for the harmonization of regional eco-standards for product and production processes, which will be beneficial for the environment and trade worldwide.

POLAND:

In the context of implementation of 10 YFP on SCP.

SWITZERLAND:

The elaboration of standards is very complex and should not be defined at a subregional level.

5.5.3. Other (please suggest demand-driven frameworks/structures)

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Current difficult economic situation of many Member States, mirrored

also in the UNECE MEAs and ExeCom financing discussions, speaks against creating any new structures.

POLAND:

The results of implementation the 10 YFP on SCP – on the base of UNEP “Platform Cleaninghouse”.

BIOTICA:

One may say that is a logical item; however regional eco-standards is not a direction that may influence the key problem of incorporation of environmental considerations in economy and true implementation of principle “pollutant pays” in the style stimulating a cleaner production.

CAREC:

Numerous eco standards exist - it is doubtful that the EfE process would gain the resources to develop respective eco standards and how far they would duplicate already existing and well established schemes.

<p>Strengthening implementation of ESD</p>	<p>5.5.4. Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational training to meet future labour market demand</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational education will lead to the creation and growth of qualified staff working for the development of green economy. This will greatly help to meet the future needs of the labour market.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>While we agree to the above topic, the experience shows that international and even national ESD strategies tend to be ineffective as they are too far from the end users (teachers and students). Elaboration of strategies on the regional and local level proved to be more efficient – there is a need for careful consideration of the value added of such activities on the UNECE level.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND:</p> <p>ESD might be best addressed in a process of its own</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>ESD is a key priority and a innovation of the UNECE Region that could be duplicated also in other UN regions, especially after Rio+20 and since green economy and the need for new decent jobs for all are, during the current severe financial and economic crises, are closely linked with quality education, vocational training and life-long learning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>A vital part of the education toward sustainability program is training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA:</p> <p>Romania considers that in the process of transition to a green economy, based on new green skills, education and training are the tools that can ensure the necessary link between understanding, deepening and solving problems related to the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable development.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>The main responsibility lies on the Ministry of Education.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Important issue but probably not attractive enough for environment ministers</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>That is true but rather technical issue. Namely future labour market demand should be formed through greening the economy systems.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>CAREC is a regional organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5.5.5. Mainstreaming ESD into teachers/educators' training</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Mainsteaming ESD into teachers/educators training will contribute to to the training of personnel who can adequately teach complex issues related to ESD, through initial training and apprenticeships.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>See above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREECE:</p> <p>See above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>Over the past three years the number of kindergarten teachers participating in training sessions on the environment and sustainability increased to 1000; about 380 grade school teachers participated in these sessions as well. These training sessions are taught by trained professionals and provided by the MoEP. They have proven very effective.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>One of the key challenges faced by in-service training is the need to move beyond the engagement of a number of committed teachers to a</p>
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	<p>more universalist approach, where all teachers are provided with in-service, related to curriculum reform, focused on education for sustainable development.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>ESD is a part of primary and secondary education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Important issue but probably not attractive enough for environment ministers</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>That is a true issue. However such education has no the strategic meaning for greening the economy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>The ESD concept is included into all activities implemented under the ESD programme of CAREC, such as the ESD related surveys, development of learning materials and innovative educational tools, organization of capacity building events for decision makers, educators, teachers, students and other stakeholders, including young leaders.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>5.5.6. Implementing an ESD school plan in every school (i.e., addressing campus management, curricula and community interaction)</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>The introduction of ESD school plans would contribute to raising environmental awareness and to positive environmentally sound behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>See above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GERMANY:</p> <p>It is not clear who can and should implement the school plan. This should be an action of the schools and not of the government.</p>

ISRAEL:

A comprehensive program for integrating sustainable development into the educational system was formulated by the MoEP and the Ministry of Education in 2009, based on a number of components:

- Training of school and kindergarten teachers: 150 schools and 330 kindergartens joined the program in the 2010-2011 academic year, encompassing 5,000 schoolteachers and 500 kindergarten teachers.
- Guiding schools with the help of trained instructors who will aid the school in training sessions and in developing a school program, which will include a practical project.
- Training student teachers in teacher seminars.
- Training of youth movement counselors, encompassing 15 youth movements and 30,000 counselors.
- Preparation of curriculums and production of enrichment material for elementary schools: educational kits for three age groups – kindergarten – 2nd grade, 3rd grade-6th grade, 7th grade-9th grade have been prepared in Hebrew and will be translated into Arabic; a textbook on environmental education was published which presents principles for sustainability education and proposed different models for integration of sustainability in schools; and a guide on the preparation of a school program on the environment is nearing publication.
- Accelerated certification of green educational institutions and operation of control systems.
- Ministerial prizes to excelling schools and kindergartens for exceptional environmental activity.
- A joint steering committee has been set up to implement the program.

POLAND:

The approach "school as a whole" is partially required by core curriculum, which obliges to realize field work, experiences and experiments. However, the majority of schools admitted that in their institutions such approach is not applied, because, as they notice, schools waste a lot of electric energy and heat on regular basis.

There are several examples of good approach which should be multiplied (Schools for Sustainable Development is one of them. It has been implemented in Poland since 2001. Starting in 2007, SSD has become part of the international Eco-Schools Program. Schools can obtain a certificate awarded for model management of the school environment).

SLOVAKIA:

Based on the current Slovak legislation, ERSD is implemented in curricula.

	<p style="text-align: center;">SWEDEN:</p> <p>It is of great importance that ESD is implemented in every school and university. According to the Swedish Education Act and the Higher Education Act, all schools and universities are obliged to work with Sustainable Development. Since the Swedish steering system doesn't include school plans, we cannot leave an adequate answer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SWITZERLAND:</p> <p>Important issue but probably not attractive enough for environment ministers</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>That is a true issue. However such education has no the strategic meaning for greening the economy. Moreover, it may have a negative influence in the countries where school programs are overloaded that affect pupils health</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>An ESD curricula in every school is so far not foreseen in all CA countries yet.</p>
<p>Strengthening environmental considerations in other social and economic sectors</p>	<p><i>5.5.7. Sustainable urban development (e.g., bringing together the relevant activities under THE PEP, the Environment and Health process, and green building)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BULGARIA:</p> <p>Integrated approaches to urban planning, in which long-term environmental considerations are fully taken into account along with the economic and social challenges that are essential to ensure that urban communities are sustainable, efficient and healthy places to live and work. However, it should be noted that regional and local authorities alone decide on the development of urban areas, according to the principle of subsidiarity. Therefore, the promotion of integrated approaches should be pursued by soft measures like: effective and efficient coordination between different levels of administration; promoting systematic involvement of regional and local authorities in the planning, formulation and development of policies that affect quality of the urban environment; providing access to regional and local authorities to environment data collection and management systems; strengthening their administrative capacity (especially with regard to the implementation of environmental legislation and absorption of various</p>

financing sources); facilitating the exchange of information and best practices etc.

CZECH REPUBLIC:

See our proposal for first thematic area for the 8th Conference.

FINLAND:

Urban development including housing, building, transport , land use, ecosystem services, energy efficiency, infrastructure development etc. needs to be addressed in the region.

GERMANY:

The UNECE provides a good platform for cross-sectoral activities. However, in order to keep the process geared towards concrete outcomes, the number of issues to be discussed in cross-sectoral formats should be limited to the most promising topics.

ITALY:

Not clear to us, need more explanation

POLAND:

Strengthening three dimensions of sustainable development – environment, economic and social is needed . All sectors should reflect action-oriented activities in these three dimensions.

SWITZERLAND:

Probably not attractive enough for ministers

6. Format of the Eighth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

6.1 Interactive format for the Conference (for a more productive ministerial participation)

Please propose an interactive format(s) to stimulate the work of the Conference:

[no comments received in this section]

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

CROATIA:

combination of plenary, panels and thematic round-tables

CZECH REPUBLIC:

This proved very efficient at the 7th Ministerial Conference in Astana.

NETHERLANDS:

As we do not believe there should be a next ministerial meeting for EfE, this section was not completed

SLOVAKIA:

We support organization of parallel thematic round-tables since they reflect a great amount of opinions and options as how to tackle different issues.

SLOVENIA:

Regional and sub-regional round tables or workshops could be a solution in some cases because this format will enable respective ministers to use their own language or other language of the region he or she can speak.

SWITZERLAND:

The format of the Astana Conference was adequate with many parallel HL sessions which enabled an active participation of the Ministers

CAREC:

The positive interest, engagement and motivation of the participants of the CAREC initiated multistakeholders meeting at the last Astana conference can certainly be understood as a

reflection of the format of those meetings. The interactive “town hall style” process allowed to reflect the opinions and contributions of all participants, thus ensuring that a wide spectrum of suggestions could contribute to this innovative process and be reflected accordingly.

<p>6.1.1. Parallel thematic round tables</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>While the round-tables proved very useful at the 7th Astana Conference, the consideration of their number should take place in beforehand. At the same time, more prominent political and expert figures should be considered. The EfE Process would definitely benefit from a more pronounced political/expert involvement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISRAEL:</p> <p>From our experience at other international events, this might encourage broader multi-stakeholder participation throughout the event (for example, from several government ministries).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>Each RT should have a Rapporteur for the plenary session. RTs may have all the same topic (like it was during the Rio+20 Conference) or be devoted to different questions. The great advantage of this form of debates is that it can bring positive and constructive outcome, enriching the overall Conference outcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLOVAKIA:</p> <p>Parallel thematic roundtables enable a great number of participants to express their views on one subject, and, consequently, come to acceptable solutions.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>It is very important format, though Astana Conference had demonstrated that effectiveness is very dependent on moderator's attitude. Principle free governmental voices versus one NGO voice discourages round-table that is especially visible when governmental interventions deviate too much from the round-table topic while NGOs cannot influence discussion in a constructive way. Therefore more balanced rules should be applied in order to avoid simulation of public participation and neglecting their contributions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>While the format can certainly contribute to the outcome of a future meeting, raising political interest for the EfE process and thus formulating a political agenda which brings political decision makers together rather than high level administrators should certainly be at the top of the Secretariat's agenda.:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">□</p>
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<p>6.1.2. Interactive discussions, e.g., similar to “BBC Question Time”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CZECH REPUBLIC:</p> <p>The more interactive conference the better. However, there is a need for focused and goal-oriented sessions lead by experienced experts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLAND:</p> <p>It may turn into an interesting alternative / supplement of classical RTs (e.g. with the private sector as audience), but due care should be given to organizational particulars of such a format.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">BIOTICA:</p> <p>Such discussions require professional and very balanced moderation. There is strong threat that such discussions being moderated by international organisation will be managed in a spread style when “discussion” is turned out from some planned interventions while time for free expressions of opinions is very limited.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>see above</p>
<p>6.1.3. ... (please propose an interactive format)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BELARUS:</p> <p>Организация страной, принимающей конференцию, выставки высоких технологий в секторе ООС (мониторинг, очистка, утилизация, информационные технологии)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>WEA like thematic small panels with Ministers and CEOs</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">CAREC:</p> <p>see above</p>

7. Any other issues you consider important

7.1 ... (please include any issues relevant to the scope of this survey that you may wish to address)

BIOTICA:

Correspondence of EfE to Rio+20 Outcome and ways to a progress mobilizing the financial and institutional capacities.

Please elaborate:

FINLAND:

Finland looks forward to the results of the mid-term review and is interested to take part in further discussions based on its results. An overall discussion on the continuation of EfE is still needed, and this evaluation will form an important stock taking basis for any further discussions.

ISRAEL:

Prevention of Soil Contamination and Rehabilitation of Land: Contaminated land poses a major risk to public health, groundwater quality, and flora and fauna. In Israel, as elsewhere in the world, contaminated land has been discovered in industrial zones, in the vicinity of gas stations and at landfill and hazardous waste sites. Over the past decade, the MoEP has identified some 1,325 contaminated sites throughout the country and has initiated remediation in several of them. In a recent survey, some 3,300 suspected contaminated sites were identified, which include some 23,000 potential sources for the contamination. In order to address the problem of land contamination, most of it caused in the past by industrial activity and faulty infrastructure, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has formulated a comprehensive policy on the treatment and cleaning of contaminated land.

BIOTICA:

EfE process should be better mainstreamed to the current needs and challenges, and avoid a rolling games as response to deficient implementation. That includes attraction of more attention of the European donors to the issues that determine future European resilience better and survival of human population. That includes better coordination of national facilities, mechanisms including those to be constructed and financial capacities.

EEA:

Aspects related to green economy are expected to be addressed by the three major pan-European processes taking place in 2015 and 2016. All are under UN umbrella namely Forest for Europe, Environment and Health and Environment for Europe. All events are planning or considering reports to be produced, addressing various GE related aspects. Following the SEIS principles and trying to translate into practice the Astana mandate on putting in place a regular assessment and reporting process and developing SEIS across the region – these reporting activities need to be streamlined, coordinated and simplified. Furthermore even the two conferences Environment and Health and Environment for Europe can be combined with eventually separate and common sessions and a coordinated report instead of two. This will reduce costs, reduce burden on the countries in terms of reporting obligations and enhance the messages and the debate by bring the two networks together.

General comments from UNEP

Dear Mr. Keiner,

UNEP is pleased that the excellent partnership established some time ago with ECE, building on our individual strengths and synergies to promote environmental sustainability and support sustainable development processes in the Pan European region, has been further strengthened since the Astana Conference. The state of our regional cooperation is strong: UNEP and ECE work together in a number of areas, not only as part of the Environment for Europe process (EfE), but also on other joint processes and initiatives.

In 2011 and 2012, UNEP collaborated with ECE in the regional preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). And, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, under the leadership of ECE and UNDP, jointly with other UN partners prepared the publication *From Transition to Transformation: Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Europe and Central Asia*. UNEP in 2012 and 2013, again through the Regional Coordination Mechanism and under the leadership of ECE and UNDP, jointly with other UN partners developed the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda common vision for the Pan European region in an advocacy paper as well as additional environment related Issue Briefs to be published shortly.

UNEP has continued the collaboration with ECE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners in the European Environment and Health Process (EEHP) by supporting and contributing to the work of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB) and European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) to ensure the implementation of commitments made within the EEHP, and is planning to revitalise its collaboration with ECE and the WHO on the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European programme (THE PEP) in the preparations for the Fourth High Level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment. UNEP will closely cooperate with ECE in strengthening the institutional and legal capacity of the Interstate Committee on Sustainable Development (ICSD) of Central Asia, and in the support to the Action Plan of the ICSD and its functional bodies in implementing recommendations of the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

With regards to environmental policy and management in the Pan European region, as part of its continued engagement with ECE in the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme, UNEP has provided experts to participate in three reviews since the Astana Conference: Albania, Romania and Croatia. UNEP also participated as part of the team in the first non ECE region EPR in Morocco in 2012.

UNEP welcomes the continuation of the EfE process as a critical space to satisfy environmental aspirations and needs of the Pan European region. In UNEP's view, the EfE continues to have an irreplaceable role as a genuinely Pan European, multilateral high level forum for stocktaking and guidance on environmental issues of importance to the Pan European region and a platform for promoting, launching and concluding regional and sub-regional initiatives and agreements.

In this regard, it is important to recall other initiatives that were borne from the EfE process and continue to enjoy successes that are recognized in the region. UNEP is a partner with ECE, OSCE, UNDP and REC, and NATO as an associated partner, in the Environment and Security Initiative, now in its tenth year contributing to the reduction of environment and security risks in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and South-Eastern Europe. The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

(Carpathian Convention) has recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its adoption at the Kyiv EfE Conference in 2003, and now includes three protocols. The Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) has been given new life by the participating governments and transformed in the Pan European Biodiversity Platform with a newly adopted Pan European 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. UNEP, along with ECE, continues to support the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) agenda and engages in the UN Inter-Agency Committee for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (IAC). Sustainable Consumption and Production initiatives have also been strongly supported by the Ministers participating in the EfE process. Rio+20 reaffirmed that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) is one of the three overarching objectives of, and an essential requirement for sustainable development, and adopted the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), of which UNEP is the secretariat.

UNEP fully supports the ECE as secretariat of the EfE process. UNEP jointly prepared with the ECE Secretariat the background paper on Green Economy (ECE/CEP/2013/10) that will be discussed at the 19th Session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP). In this background paper the most recent developments of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative is presented. It is evident that the success of the Initiative is built on the strong partnerships that have been fostered with other UN and non-UN institutions. UNEP, therefore, welcomes the further cooperation with ECE on the Green Economy work in the Pan European region since the Astana Conference. An important example of this cooperation is the implementation of the project entitled Greening the Economies in the Eastern Neighborhood (EaP Green) with UNECE, OECD and other partners.

We look forward to our own continued strong involvement in the EfE process. The importance of UNEP's role in addressing sustainable development at the regional level has been enhanced in the Rio+20 outcome and the efforts of the Pan European region to transition to inclusive green economies. UNEP, as a global organization with a regional mandate, strongly advocates the use of the EfE process also as a forum to reflect at the Pan European level on ideas and actions of global relevance – and for this reason will be leading a side event during the forthcoming CEP session on the newly established United Nations Environment Assembly. We take this opportunity also to stress again the important role of NGOs and trade unions, local authorities and academia – in general, civil society – and the private sector in the EfE process, a role that we continue to advocate for and support. UNEP stands ready to continue to strengthen its cooperation and collaboration with ECE as an established partner in this region.

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