

## The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes



### Survey for reporting on promoting the “Environment for Europe” process and the outcomes of its ministerial conferences\*

#### I. Introduction

1. At its eighteenth session in April 2012 the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) invited the secretariat to organize consultations (in the form of a survey) with UNECE member States to collect information on how countries have been promoting objectives and priorities of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process and strengthening implementation of outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.
2. The secretariat will prepare a summary report on the basis of responses received to the survey. The report will support the discussion during the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes which is being organized during the nineteenth session of CEP (Geneva, 22–25 October 2013).
3. The survey, contained in section V of the current document, was developed by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau. In addition, an overview of main achievements of the EfE process is provided in section II. Section III focusses on outcomes of Astana Ministerial Conference, and section IV includes background information on the mid-term review of relevance to the survey. For convenience, the Reform Plan of the EfE process is provided in the annex to this document.

#### II. Overview of the “Environment for Europe” process: main achievements

4. Since its launch in 1991 the EfE process supports countries efforts to advance in environmental governance. The EfE process is a unique partnership of member States within the UNECE region, organizations of the United Nations System represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations and bodies, Regional Environmental Centres, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other major groups. UNECE, which has been closely associated with the EfE process since its inception, serves as its secretariat.

---

\* This document has not been formally edited.

5. The process and its ministerial conferences provide an effective high-level platform for stakeholders to discuss, decide and join efforts in addressing environmental priorities across the 56 countries of the UNECE region, and is a regional pillar of sustainable development.
6. At the same time, the process focuses on supporting the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and of South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to raise environmental standards and comply with international commitments.
7. The EfE process provided the framework for the development of governance policies and initiatives, legal instruments, policies and practical actions and tools that promote and improve environmental governance and strengthen sustainable development at the regional level, as well as contribute to enhancing the global sustainability. The main achievements of the EfE process include:
  - (a) Four assessments on the state of the environment in the pan-European region (Dobris, Aarhus, Kyiv and Belgrade assessments) and an assessment of environmental assessments (Astana).
  - (b) Setting up institutional mechanisms for cooperation (establishing the Environmental Action Programme Task Force, the Project Preparation Committee and the Regional Environmental Centres).
  - (c) Acting as a driving force for developing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other environmental policy instruments, and promoting their implementation.<sup>1</sup>
  - (d) Launching the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme for member countries that are non-OECD members.
  - (e) Promoting cross-sectoral activities and policy integration (energy efficiency, education for sustainable development (ESD) and greening the economy).
  - (f) Enhancing cooperation between Governments and civil society organizations.
8. Following a decision by Ministers in Belgrade in 2007, CEP reformed the EfE process in 2009 to ensure that it remains relevant and valuable, and to strengthen its effectiveness.

### **III. Main features of and lessons learned from the Astana Ministerial Conference**

9. The seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) was the first EfE Conference organized in accordance with the Reform Plan of the EfE process. The Astana Ministerial Conference gathered more than 1,500 participants from Governments, the international community, civil society, business and the media throughout the UNECE region to discuss two main themes: sustainable management of water and water-related

---

<sup>1</sup> The UNECE Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs); the UNECE Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS); the Aarhus Convention; the Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Air Pollution Convention; the Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol; the UNECE Strategy for ESD; the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention; the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention; the Protocol on Civil Liability to the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions; the Environment Strategy for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries; the Carpathian Convention; and a series of guidelines and recommendations to Governments.

ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

10. The event was organized in an interactive format, including nine high-level multi-stakeholder round tables. To support multi-stakeholder discussions during the Conference and to facilitate decision-making, substantive documents on each of the two main themes were prepared by UNECE jointly with EfE partners. For the first time, the EfE Ministerial Conference was a paper-smart event.

11. The EfE partners organized 43 side events on issues related to the two main themes of the Conference. The Conference gathered business and industry representatives, who also participated in a Green Innovations, Technologies and Ecoservices Fair, organized on the margins of the Conference. Representatives of media attended the Conference, preceded by a capacity-building workshop for journalists.

12. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the Astana Ministerial Declaration — a concise and comprehensive document — in which ministers confirmed their commitment to improving environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the UNECE region through the EfE process, as well as decided on a number of follow up and further actions under the two themes of the Conference.

13. At its eighteenth session in April 2012, CEP assessed the effectiveness of the Astana Ministerial Conference. Delegations highly appreciated the organization and the outcomes of the Conference, structured in a new format according to the EfE Reform Plan. The success of the Conference was attributed to its two main themes, which were of importance for the entire region, its interactive format and its good outcomes, as well as its efficient preparatory process<sup>2</sup>.

14. Meeting participants observed that the Astana Conference had demonstrated once again that the EfE process provided a unique high-level platform for addressing environmental concerns across the region and should be continued. Delegations expressed the wish for the future EfE conferences to be prepared in the same manner, including an even higher interactivity during the conference.

15. At the same time, some delegations observed that the biggest challenge for future conferences was to provide new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, given the ongoing economic crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region.

16. Future conferences should also be better streamlined, in particular in terms of side events. Concerning identification of themes for the next conferences, delegates stressed the need to find the right balance between established and emerging themes, including enhancing the work related to green economy and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development.

#### **IV. The “Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes**

17. In accordance with the EfE Reform Plan and following a decision by the Astana Ministerial Conference, CEP is convening a mid-term review in 2013 to assess the progress in implementation of the Conference’s main outcomes. The mid-term review would provide

---

<sup>2</sup> The preparatory process for the Astana Ministerial Conference commenced in 2009 and included four meetings of CEP (October 2009, November 2010, May and September 2011), two meetings of CEP Extended Bureau (May 2009 and March 2010), and one joint meeting of the Bureaux of CEP and of the Water Convention (January 2010).

renewed impetus to the process and its findings would be taken into account in the preparatory process for the next conference.

18. The EfE Reform Plan stipulates that particular efforts should be made by all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences. Member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.

19. Furthermore, the Reform Plan stipulates that active participation by and input of all interested UNECE countries, and in particular of interested countries from subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation is crucial for the success of the activities under the EfE process. Also, countries taking the lead for one or more issues were encouraged to do so in ways that would contribute significantly to the EfE process’ objectives and priorities.

20. The Astana Conference main outcomes include: (a) ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); (b) implementing the Astana Water Action; (c) promoting a green economy in the region and the Green Bridge Partnership Programme; (d) conducting a third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs); (e) establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); and (f) continuing the work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force) and strengthening the work of the Regional Environmental Centres (see ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1).<sup>3</sup>

## **V. Survey**

21. The purpose of the survey is to collect information (in accordance with the request by CEP) from the UNECE member States about the promotion of the EfE objectives and priorities in general, as well as strengthening implementation of the outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference in particular, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.

22. Following to the EfE Reform Plan, which stipulates in paragraph 16 that “member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process”, the survey aims at assessing the progress made by countries in implementing the EfE objectives and priorities as set out in the 2009 EfE Reform Plan (paragraphs 6 and 7). The EfE priorities adopted in 2009 cover most of activities carried out at present by the UNECE Environment subprogramme, as well as a number of activities carried out by the EfE partners. These activities are included in sections 2 and 3 of the survey.

23. In addition, following up on paragraph 16 of the EfE Reform Plan stipulating that “member States should strengthen the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences”, the survey aims at assessing the progress in implementation of the main outcome activities of the 2011 Astana EfE Ministerial Conference (refer to paragraph 20 of the present document). These activities are included in section 4 of the survey.

24. Furthermore, the survey seeks to identify country views on environmental priorities and themes that could be addressed at the next ministerial conference, as well as on possible efficient interactive modes for conducting discussions at ministerial level. These issues are included in sections 5 and 6 of the survey.

25. It is recognized that countries may engage in a particular issue, treaty or process without the direct attribution of that engagement to the EfE process. Therefore it is

---

<sup>3</sup> The Astana Ministerial Declaration and other Conference documents are available on the ECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome.html>).

recommended that the responses to the survey questions also explain the extent to which the EfE process has influenced the attention and priority given to an issue, process or treaty. If the response to a question is “not applicable”, “disagree” or “not foreseen”, but the particular issue is nonetheless important for the country, it could be explained that the issue is addressed primarily through means other than the EfE process or UNECE activities.

26. The target group of the survey comprises the representatives of national Governments of the UNECE region.

27. The structure of the survey has been developed to be user-friendly, mostly using a “tick box” approach, which is complemented by an explanatory section to allow respondents to elaborate on their choice. Such an approach is expected to facilitate the process of filling in the survey.

28. On the basis of responses received the UNECE secretariat will prepare an analysis for consideration by the nineteenth session of CEP. The analysis along with the responses received from countries will be posted on the CEP website.

29. UNECE member States are invited to complete the survey below and submit it to the secretariat (efe@unece.org) **by Friday, 28 June 2013**, at the latest.

### **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:	Maria	Alexia	Evelina
Last name:	Papaioannou	Economopoulou	Stamouli
Title:	Officers at the Department of International Relations and EU Affairs (coordinating service)		
Organization:	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change		
Country:	Greece		
Address:	Amaliados 15		
Telephone:	2106411717		
E-mail:	m.pepp@prv.ypeka.gr m.papaioannou@prv.ypeka.gr e.stamouli@prv.ypeka.gr		
Website:	www.ypeka.gr		
Date:	5/7/2013		

---

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

*In the table below, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate. The boxes can be ticked by double-clicking on the box and choosing “checked” under the “default value” from the popping up window. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.*

**The EfE process continues to serve as a mechanism to:**

**(a) 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**

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree /  N/A

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.

**(b) Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies**

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree /  N/A

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.

**(c) Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals, and the prioritisation of environmental objectives**

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree /  N/A

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.

**(d) Encourage the participation of civil society**

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree /  N/A

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.

**(e) Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation**

strongly agree /  somewhat agree /  somewhat disagree /  strongly disagree /  N/A

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.

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

*In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in promoting the EfE political priorities, based on commitments already made under the EfE process, including through national policies and relevant partnerships. Please tick the box*

that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country. Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

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

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

– improvement of environmental governance:

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  accomplished /  N/A

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.

– strengthening environmental institutions:

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  accomplished /  N/A

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.

– implementation of policy instruments:

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  accomplished /  N/A

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.

**(b) Streamlining the implementation by your Government of commitments made to existing UNECE legally-binding and legally non-binding instruments**

Overall assessment:

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  accomplished /  N/A

Air Pollution Convention and its Protocols

- Status (*more than one box can be ticked*)  
 signed /  ratified/acceded/approved /  in the process of ratification/accession/approval /  not foreseen /  N/A

Greece ratified the Air Pollution Convention (Law 1374/1983, OJG 91/A/08-07-1983), as well as

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

	<p>the following Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The EMEP Protocol (Law 1752/1988, OJG 26/A/16-02-88),</li> <li>– The SO<sub>2</sub> Protocol (Law 1752/1988, OJG 26/A/16-02-88),</li> <li>– The NO<sub>x</sub> Protocol (Law 2543/1997, OJG 252/A/15-12-97),</li> <li>– Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions ((Law 2542/1997, OJG 251/A/15-12-97).</li> </ul> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Partially implemented as regards the recording and monitoring for air pollutants’ data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></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>Water Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implementation</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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 county 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.</p> <p>Based on the provisions of the Convention and, clearly, on the EU Water Framework Directive, Greece has signed with upstream neighboring Bulgaria and Turkey, since 2010, and is implementing Agreements through Joint Technical Working Groups.</p>
<p>Protocol on Water and Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval /</p>

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</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>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p>Industrial Accidents Convention</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Greece ratified the Convention on the transboundary effects of industrial accidents in 1997 (Law 2546/1997, OJG 256/A/16-12-97).</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p>Protocol on Civil Liability</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>The Protocol on Civil Liability was signed in 2003 in Kiev.</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

Espoo Convention	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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 or ratifying the two amendments of the ESPOO Convention.</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Greece has repeatedly exchanged notifications letters with Italy, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and FYROM, during the last three years, in the framework of this Convention.</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Greece is regularly submitting formal reports for the Convention and is currently in the process of preparation of the 3rd report.</p>
Protocol on SEA	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>The SEA Protocol was signed in 2003 in Kiev. Greece is planning on ratifying the Protocol within the following months.</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>As the Protocol has not been ratified yet, Greece has proceeded only with the implementation of operational programmes on the EU level.</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
Aarhus Convention	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>The Convention was ratified in 2005 (Law 3422/12-12-2005, OJG 303/A/2005).</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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).</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p>

“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>Protocol on PRTRs</p>	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> signed / <input type="checkbox"/> ratified/acceded/approved / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the process of ratification/accession/approval / <input type="checkbox"/> not foreseen / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Greece signed the PRTR Protocol in Kiev, in 2003. Greece is planning to ratify the Protocol in the immediate future.</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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).</p> <p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Annually a National report is submitted to the European Commission pursuant to the Regulation 166/2006/EC.</p>
<p>Strategy for ESD</p>	<p>– Status (more than one box can be ticked)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

	<p>– Formal reporting (national implementation reports)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</p> <p>The latest national formal implementation report was submitted (and orally presented) during the 8th Steering Committee meeting on ESD, on March 21, 2013.</p>
THE PEP	<p>– Status (<i>more than one box can be ticked</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> adopted / <input type="checkbox"/> actively participating / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not engaged / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>– Implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Relative initiatives are undertaken occasionally</p> <p>– Reporting (responding to THE PEP survey on progress in the attainment of the Amsterdam Goals)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> never submitted / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> submitting regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p><b>(c) Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring</b></p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment also ensures collection and update of environmental data through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Air-quality monitoring</li> <li>2. Water quality, water quantity and ecological status monitoring</li> <li>3. Air emissions monitoring (main industrial installations emissions)</li> <li>4. Combustion and fuel monitoring programmes</li> <li>5. Inventory of local and waste management authorities reporting on waste quantities, treatment and management</li> <li>6. Noise monitoring</li> <li>7. Environmental inspectorate monitoring</li> <li>8. Air emissions trade registry</li> <li>9. Ozone Depleting Substances</li> </ol>	
Production of indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports	<p><input type="checkbox"/> never produced / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producing occasionally / <input type="checkbox"/> producing regularly / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Environmental data is collected and processed in compliance with the EU legislation and in</p>

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

	accordance with the environmental reporting obligations and specifications of EEA and Eurostat.
Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> 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 IPCC Directive, the EMAS Regulation and the EU waste legislation. Moreover, international standards for environmental management, such as ISO14001, are promoted and widely implemented.
<b>(d) Ensuring implementation of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme</b> Overall assessment of your country’s role: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not active / <input type="checkbox"/> active as donor / <input type="checkbox"/> active as reviewed country / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Participation in the EPR process as a reviewed country in the future	<input type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Participation in the EPR process as a donor country (in-kind and/or providing financial support)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not interested / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> on-going / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Implementation of EPR recommendations by the reviewed country	<input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> accomplished / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>(e) Raising public awareness on environmental issues</b> Overall assessment in your country: <input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> </ul>	

<p>– 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”.</p>	
<p>Environmental awareness is also encouraged and promoted in the framework of the ELD implementation.</p>	
<p>Ensuring public access to environmental information</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>The right of access to information is provided and guaranteed by the Constitution as well as by the Administrative Procedure Code.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Relevant websites: <a href="http://www.e-per.gr">www.e-per.gr</a>, <a href="http://aarhus.e-per.gr">http://aarhus.e-per.gr</a>, <a href="http://www.opengov.gr">www.opengov.gr</a>, <a href="http://diavgeia.gov.gr">http://diavgeia.gov.gr</a></p>
<p>Ensuring public participation in environmental-decision making</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>Since 2009, almost every piece of draft legislation, or even policy initiative by the government, is posted in <a href="http://opengov.gr">opengov.gr</a>, 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.</p>
<p>Ensuring public access to environmental justice</p>	<p>The right to judicial protection is stipulated on article 20 par. 1 of the Greek Constitution.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p><b>(f) Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness</b></p> <p>Overall assessment in your country:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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 &amp; 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Nature - Waters)</li> <li>– Upgrading the Quality of Life - Protection of Public Health</li> <li>– Moving to a competitive low-carbon consumption (energy efficiency, promote renewable energy / natural gas strengthening energy infrastructure)</li> <li>– Strengthening institutions and mechanisms of environmental governance (spatial planning, environmental awareness and education, enhancing public access to environmental information)</li> </ul> <p>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”).</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Mainstreaming the environment into economic development</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Implementing environmental policies through economic/market instruments (e.g. phasing out subsidies, introducing environmental taxation, payment for ecosystems services, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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 3199/2003 established the basic principles of water pricing policies.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

	<p>reduced tax rate.</p> <p>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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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>Implementing environmental policies through regulatory/normative instruments (e.g. norms, standards, bans, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Implementing environmental policies through information based/voluntary instruments (e.g. labelling, etc.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> not started / <input type="checkbox"/> initiated / <input type="checkbox"/> in progress / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> well-implemented / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>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.</p>

**4. Progress in strengthening the implementation of outcomes of the Astana Efe Ministerial Conference**

*In the table below, please, provide a brief summary of how your country is progressing in implementing the commitments made at the Astana Conference. Please tick the box that best corresponds to the current situation or level of implementation in your country.*

Provide an explanation, as appropriate. N/A means not applicable. If you choose N/A, nevertheless please elaborate on your choice.

**The main outcomes of the Astana Conference include:**

**(a) Ratifying and implementing the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (by your country)**

See analytical comments above on MEAs

**(b) Implementing the Astana Water Action (by your country)**

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  well-implemented/  not foreseen

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

...

**(c) Promoting a green economy (by your country)**

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  well-implemented/  not foreseen

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

See comments above

**Promoting the Green Bridge Partnership Programme (by your country)**

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  well-implemented/  not foreseen

**(d) Ensuring implementation of the third cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs) (by your country)**

not foreseen /  active as donor /  active as reviewed country /  N/A

**(e) Establishing a regular process of environmental assessment (RPEA), including developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) (by your country)**

not started /  initiated /  in progress /  SEIS developed /  RPEA established

Greece is following the EU developments into establishing a SEIS

**(f) Participation in the continued work of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP 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)**

not foreseen /  active as donor /  active as beneficiary /  N/A

**Participation in strengthening the contribution of Regional Environmental Centres (RECs) in both promoting green economy and better environmental governance at the local, national, subregional and regional levels (by your country)**

not foreseen /  active as donor /  active as beneficiary /  N/A

**5. Thematic priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process for the Eighth Ministerial Conference**

*In the table below, please indicate thematic priorities that might be addressed at the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, including a brief justification note for each proposed priorities. Please also indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the proposed several themes, as well as organising a high-level segment on MEAs and the proposed theme. Please kindly note that the idea to organize a high-level segment on MEAs emerged from the discussion at the informal meeting of representatives of governing bodies of MEAs and CEP (Geneva, 27 February 2013).*

**First thematic priority (an “established” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addressed the “established” theme sustainable management of water and water related ecosystems)**

*Please propose a theme:* 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

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

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.

**Second thematic priority (an “emerging” theme of importance to the entire region, e.g. the Astana Conference addresses the “emerging” theme greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development)**

*Please propose a theme:* Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication: mainstreaming the environment into economic development and social considerations.

*Please elaborate (up to 250 words):*

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.

Enhancing the work on greening the economy and

A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Astana EfE and Rio+20 Conferences commitments

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

<p>the mainstreaming of environmental concerns into the economic development</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>See above</p>
<p>Promoting a sustainable consumption and production</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>“Greening” International Financial Institutions (IFIs) policies</p>	<p>A possible “emerging” theme for the Eighth Ministerial Conference to follow up on the Rio+20 Conferences commitments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Resilience and Change</p>	<p>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 to the foreseen changes in demographics (aging populations and south-north migration), in particular in urban areas)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</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 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).</p>
<p><b>Organizing a high-level segment on assessing the progress in establishing a regular process of environmental assessment and developing the SEIS across the region</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Organizing a high-level segment on UNECE MEAs</b></p>	

<input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree	
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.	
Role of public participation in effective implementation of MEAs	<p>A possible theme for a possible high-level segment on UNECE MEAs (of relevance to all UNECE MEAs)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<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><b>Need to develop new structures or frameworks to address emerging themes, such as green economy, giving the on-going crisis that affected all countries in the UNECE region</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree	
In line with what has been written above regarding the first and second thematic priorities for the next EfE Ministerial Conference.	
Greening the economies	<p>Elaboration of subregional roadmaps (e.g. EU, SEE, Central Asia, Caucasus, Eastern Europe)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<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 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.</p>	
<p>Elaboration/harmonization of regional eco-standards for products and production processes</p> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree	
<p>See rationale same as above</p>	
<p>Other (<i>please suggest demand-driven frameworks/structures</i>)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree	
Strengthening implementation of ESD	<p>Mainstreaming ESD into technical and vocational training to meet future labour market demand</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<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>Mainstreaming ESD into teachers/educators’ training</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree	
<p>See above</p>	
<p>Implementing an ESD school plan in every school (i.e. addressing campus management,</p>	

**“Environment for Europe” mid-term review of the Astana main outcomes: survey**

	<p>curricula and community interaction)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p>See above</p>
Strengthening environmental considerations in other social and economic sectors	<p>Sustainable urban development (e.g. bringing together the relevant activities under THE PEP, Environment and Health process, and green building)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p>

**6. Format of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference**

*In the table below, please, indicate/propose an interactive format for the next Conference. Provide an explanation, as appropriate.*

<p><b>Interactive format for the Conference (for a more productive ministerial participation)</b></p> <p><i>Please propose an interactive format(s) to stimulate the work of the Conference:</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Please elaborate (up to 250 words):</i></p> <p>...</p>	
Parallel thematic round-tables	<p>X strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>There is the chance of participating in more thematic round tables and discuss in the same length of time more issues</p>
Interactive discussions e.g. similar to “BBC Question Time”	<p>X strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>The principles of transparency and participation from the public are crucial</p>
[please propose an interactive format]	<p><input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat agree / <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat disagree / <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree</p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...</p>

**7. Any other issues you consider important**

<p><i>[please include any issues relevant to the scope of this survey that you may wish to address ...]</i></p> <p><i>Please elaborate:</i></p> <p>...</p>
--

## Annex

### **Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process: Reform Plan**

*Excerpt from the report of the Committee on Environmental Policy on its special session  
(Geneva, 27–29 January 2009)*

#### **I. Background**

1. The Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007) recognized the important value of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process as a unique pan-European forum for tackling environmental challenges and promoting broad horizontal environmental cooperation, and as a pillar of sustainable development in the UNECE region. The EfE process was considered to be an important framework for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region. The added value of the EfE process was recognized in its close links with other regional and subregional initiatives and processes, which help to integrate environmental and sectoral policies.

2. The ministers in Belgrade agreed that the EfE process, initiated in 1991, needed to be reformed. They committed themselves to continuing a focused and needs-based EfE process concentrated on results-based, action-oriented activities that improve the environment and advance sustainable development in the region and to actively seeking partnerships with civil society, including the private sector. The purpose of the reform was to strengthen its effectiveness and to ensure that it remained appropriate for, and fully aligned with, the growing needs of the UNECE region and the evolving political and economic landscape, as well as the environmental priorities of the region.

3. The Belgrade Ministerial Declaration stated that the reform should focus on, although may not be limited to, the following aspects:

- (a) The format, focus and priorities of the process and Ministerial Conferences;
- (b) Evaluating the performance and impact of the process;
- (c) Attracting the broader interest and more active engagement of all stakeholders, in particular the private sector;
- (d) Expanding the use of partnerships as vehicles for improving implementation;
- (e) Leveraging external contributions of expertise, manpower and resources;
- (f) Assessing ways and means to promote more effectively the UNECE region-wide dimension of environmental cooperation;
- (g) The full cost of the process and the effective allocation of available resources;
- (g) Future secretariat arrangements.

4. In order to address the above issues in depth and with due consideration, the ministers invited the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) to develop, in consultation with EfE partners a plan for EfE reform so that it could be endorsed at the political level by UNECE in spring 2009.

5. The ministers further decided that the next EfE Ministerial Conference would be organized on the basis of the agreed reform.

## II. Objectives and priorities of the “Environment for Europe” process

6. The EfE process should continue to serve as a mechanism to:
  - (a) 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;
  - (b) Enhance the implementation of strengthened national environmental policies;
  - (c) Support convergence of environmental policies and approaches, while recognizing the benefits from a diversity of approaches to achieve common goals, and the prioritisation of environmental objectives;
  - (d) Encourage the participation of civil society;
  - (e) Promote broad horizontal environmental cooperation.
7. The political priorities should be based on commitments already taken under the EfE process. These priorities may include:
  - (a) Improvement of environmental governance, including strengthening environmental institutions and implementation of policy instruments;
  - (b) Streamlining the implementation by Governments of commitments they have made to existing UNECE legally binding and legally non-binding instruments;
  - (c) Enhancing efforts in environmental monitoring;
  - (d) Ensuring implementation of the Environmental Performance Review programme;
  - (e) Raising public awareness of environmental issues;
  - (f) Promoting linkages between environmental policy, economic and social well-being and competitiveness.
8. Furthermore, thematic priorities of the EfE process would be identified in line with current needs, national circumstances and in respect to future emerging issues.
9. In the future, the EfE process will be based on general principles and agreements on the operational modalities, as described below.

## III. General principles

10. The ministers in Belgrade agreed that the EfE process should:
  - (a) Keep its UNECE region-wide dimension and be open for all interested countries of the region;
  - (b) Engage all stakeholders, including the private sector, to strengthen the work in partnership;
  - (c) Maintain close links with other regional and subregional initiatives, and focus on specific needs that are not entirely addressed by other cooperative frameworks, instruments or processes in the region and its subregions;
  - (d) Concentrate on results-based, action-oriented activities;
  - (e) Be kept open to issues on which the process can provide added value;
  - (f) Use delivery as a major criterion of its effectiveness. CEP should regularly consider and assess progress achieved under the process.

11. To complement the above principles, a consensus emerged from CEP in relation to the EfE process and the Conference:

- (a) On the one hand, the EfE process-related principles are as follows:
  - (i) Broader engagement from the Governments to achieve long-term policy integration of environmental considerations into other sectors;
  - (ii) Stronger focus on implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences by relevant responsible actors in the period between Conferences;
  - (iii) Encouragement of and support to subregional activities including stronger involvement of relevant subregional structures in the implementation process, including RECs;
  - (iv) Enhanced cooperation between the regional and subregional partners in the region;
  - (v) Identification of ways to strengthen linkages between the activities under the EfE process and those of relevant international processes.
  - (vi) Enhancement of relevant Governments’ implementation and compliance with their commitments under multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (vii) Utilization of the Environmental Performance Reviews as an important instrument for protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development.
- (b) On the other hand, the Conference-related principles are:
  - (i) The ministerial level of the Conferences should be maintained;
  - (ii) Specific mechanisms for attracting high-level participation, including those from the private sector, should be developed;
  - (iii) A limited number of themes, not more than two, to be identified in advance and addressed by each Conference;
  - (iv) Within the identified themes there should be a focus on specific needs of the subregions, in order to contribute to better cooperation and more substantive and action-oriented outcomes of the Conference;
  - (v) An effective communication strategy, including broad mass-media coverage, as appropriate, should be further developed, comprising, inter alia, special events for journalists, circulation of electronic newsletters and maintaining a dedicated website;
  - (vi) The outcome documents, in all forms, should be focused and action-oriented;
  - (vii) Carbon neutrality of the Conferences based on the voluntary contributions available.

#### **IV. The “Environment for Europe” Conference**

##### **Preparatory process**

12. Materializing the above-mentioned principles calls for streamlining and improving the preparatory process for the Conferences. In this spirit, the following measures should be taken:

(a) Not later than 18 months before the Conference the CEP at its regular session will decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the Conference. When deciding on the themes preliminary findings of available assessments and statistical reports on environment should be taken into consideration. A decision on the agenda of the Conference should be taken at the regular meeting of the CEP approximately 12 months prior to the Conference and further preparatory work would commence. Documents on substantial themes of the Conference should be released 6 weeks before the Conference;

(b) CEP would act as the convening body for the preparatory process. To maintain the open nature of the preparatory process and the engagement of all stakeholders, representatives of major groups will be invited to participate in meetings of the CEP in preparation of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the existing UN rules and procedures. Furthermore, CEP would consider and approve the official documents for submission to the Conference. Special sessions of the CEP could be scheduled, if needed, in the year prior to the Conference;

(c) Particular efforts would be made to involve private-sector representatives in the preparatory process and the Conference;

(d) To reduce the amount of documents produced for the Conference, only one official document per selected theme would be prepared by the UNECE or another EfE partner, in close cooperation with other EfE partners. The official substantive documentation would thus comprise the pan-European assessment and theme-specific reports;

(e) Interested UNECE member States, EfE partners and other stakeholders could produce other documents featuring their activities and initiatives related to the EfE process, which would be circulated as information documents;

(f) The preparatory process would be serviced by the UNECE secretariat;

(g) For the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources would have to continue to be provided to UNECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources;

(h) The host country should assume relevant financial commitments.

### **Format**

13. The periodicity, duration and the organization of discussions at the Conference should be as follows:

(a) The Conferences should be held every four to five years, with each Conference lasting two-and-a-half to three days maximum;

(b) Based on the previous experience, the Conference should start with a short opening event. The host country would be given an opportunity to organize events highlighting its special features in addition to the official Conference agenda;

(c) The discussions at the Conference should be arranged in an interactive manner and combine various types of sessions, e.g. plenary sessions, roundtables and moderated panel discussions, with a limited number of main speakers from different stakeholders (e.g. UNECE member States, EfE partners and major groups). When possible, interactive sessions, such as roundtables, could be run in parallel;

(d) The Conference could be structured around the following main clusters (all of them focusing on the agreed priorities):

(i) Plenary sessions for the presentation and discussion of the priority topics;

- (ii) Sessions on ongoing cooperation and partnerships in the UNECE region and its subregions with different stakeholders, including the private sector;
  - (iii) A session of environmental NGOs and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
  - (iv) A session of private sector representatives and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
  - (v) Sessions dedicated to announcing new partnerships and initiatives by stakeholders;
  - (vi) A brief concluding session with the presentation (and adoption, if appropriate) of the main outcomes of the Conference;
- (e) To address issues relevant to the agenda of the Conference in more detail, side-events should be organized by interested UNECE member States, EfE partners and relevant stakeholders;
- (f) To attract the attention of the private sector, opportunities should be provided for the organization of promotional events such as poster exhibitions, trade fairs, roundtables and environmental award initiatives.

### **Outcomes**

14. Conference outcomes might include:
- (a) A chairperson’s summary;
  - (b) Statements, initiatives, agreements, pledges by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and/or for specific subregions;
  - (c) An agreed outcome of two pages on follow up and further actions strictly limited, in terms of scope, to the themes of the Conference;
  - (d) Policy tools, including strategies, action plans with time frames, guidelines, recommendations, best practices and lessons learned that are presented to the Conference by interested countries of the UNECE region and/or organizations taking the lead for these issues, and that were not negotiated within the preparatory process for the Conference;
  - (e) Assessment reports used in preparation of or presented to the Conference that are important for the implementation of the Conference’s outcomes.

## **V. Implementation**

15. Particular efforts should be made by all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences.
16. Member States should regularly consider how to promote objectives and priorities of the EfE process and strengthen implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences, including through national policies and relevant partnerships.
17. A mid-term review to be convened by the CEP to assess progress of the implementation of the outcomes of the EfE Conferences and provide renewed impetus to the process. The review should be based on existing information. The findings of the review should be taken into account in the preparatory process of the next conference.
18. Active participation by and input of all interested countries of the UNECE, and in particular of interested countries from subregions with specific needs in improving their environmental situation is crucial for the success of the activities under the EfE process.

19. The RECs network should continue to play a role in the preparatory process for the Conference and should be encouraged to play a greater role in the achievement of the overall EfE process’ objectives and priorities.
  20. Other EfE partners should continue to be actively involved in the preparatory process and implementation of the EfE process.
  21. Countries and/or organizations taking the lead for one or more issues are encouraged to do so in ways that would contribute significantly to the EfE process’ objectives and priorities.
-