

Draft overview of the BIG-E commitments on green economy actions (as at 20 January 2017)

INTRODUCTION

At their 7th and 8th Environment for Europe (EfE) Conferences in Astana (2011) and Batumi (2016), ministers from the pan-European region, committed to take the lead in the transition to a green economy, as a key path to sustainable development and poverty eradication and to direct consumption habits, investments and trade in support of a socially inclusive economic progress, decoupled from environmental degradation.

In Batumi, ministers endorsed the voluntary Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy — a tool supporting countries' efforts in transitioning to the green economy until 2030 and, at the same time, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ – and invited ECE member States and other stakeholders to implement it². They also welcomed and launched the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E), which consists of voluntary commitments on green economy actions to operationalize the Strategic Framework. Countries and other stakeholders were encouraged to implement their commitments under the BIG-E, in order to expedite the transition to a green economy in the region, and to report on progress thereon to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), in accordance with the Strategic Framework.³

With the financial support from Switzerland, who took a lead in the development of the BIG-E in cooperation with countries and organisations from the region, the Strategic Framework and the BIG-E Initiative have been incorporated and will be further promoted through the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)⁴.

This document provides an overview of the BIG-E commitments on green economy actions submitted by countries and organizations for the 8th EfE Conference in Batumi and thereafter, according to the objectives and focus areas of the Strategic Framework. A compilation of all received commitments, based on the template developed for this purpose and annexed to the Strategic Framework, is included in document ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/13.⁵

1. The Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)

The BIG-E comprises voluntary commitments by interested countries and organizations, both public and private (BIG-E stakeholders), in the form of green economy actions. The actions are directly linked to one or several focus areas of the Strategic Framework, and aim for instance at incentivizing green investments and trade, promoting responsible consumption habits, or fostering innovation in green technologies, in order to advance the transition to an inclusive green economy in the region.

¹ See the the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E.

² See the EfE Batumi Declaration at <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/ece/ece.batumi.conf.2016.2.add.1.e.pdf>

³ See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/initiatives/big-e.html>

⁴ See the Green Growth Knowledge Platform at <http://www.ggkp.org/big-e>

⁵ See <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/ece/ece.batumi.conf.2016.13.e.pdf>

BIG-E stakeholders were invited to commit about five green economy actions in time for the 8th EfE Conference. The following criteria were to be considered for selecting commitments:

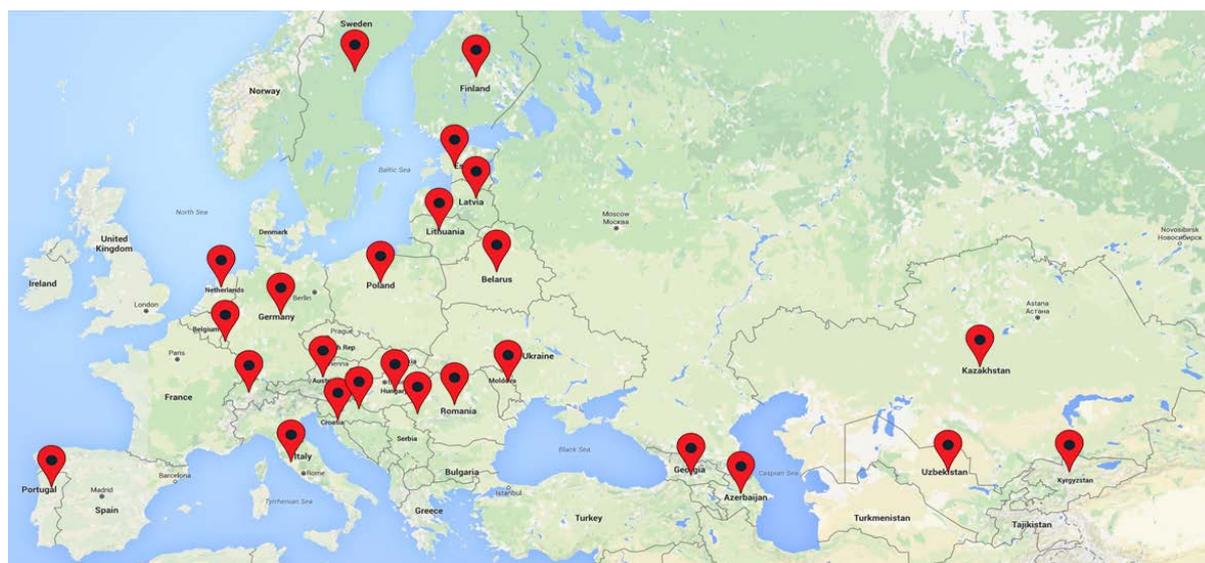
- (a) Delivery of economic benefits with environmental and social co-benefits;
- (b) Mixture of new and ongoing initiatives;
- (c) Clear contribution to the achievement of SDG targets;
- (d) Measurable impact over time;
- (e) Driver for transformation and innovation towards green economy that may be relevant to and inspire other countries in the region.

In order to also reflect the respective contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each green economy action within the BIG-E should be linked to the specific SDG targets to which it contributes. This approach helps ensure the advancement of green economy in the region in support of the 2030 Agenda. Additional actions can still be submitted after the Conference until the EfE mid-term review in 2018 and beyond. A list of possible green economy actions was developed to serve as inspiration for interested governments and other stakeholders in identifying their commitments under the BIG-E⁶.

2. Overview of BIG-E Commitments

More than 110 commitments were submitted for the 8th EfE Conference and thereafter, from 36 different countries and organisations, including: Austria (1), Azerbaijan (1), Belarus (5), Croatia (5), Estonia (1), Finland (2), Georgia (4), Germany (4), Hungary (4), Italy (4), Kazakhstan (1), Kyrgyzstan (1), Latvia (3), Lithuania (5), Luxembourg (1), Netherlands (5), Poland (5), Portugal (4), Republic of Moldova (5), Romania (2), Slovenia (1), Sweden (3), Switzerland (5), Uzbekistan (5), CAREC (8), European ECO Forum (1), GGKP (1), GOF47/UN Environment/GRI (1), IPEN IEE ECO Forum (2), IRP/UN Environment (1), OECD (4), Pistoletto Foundation (2), REC Caucasus (4), REC Central Eastern Europe (1), UNECE (8), UN Environment (3).

Figure 1. Map of BIG-E Commitments by country



⁶ The List of Possible Green Economy Actions is available at <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/ece/ece.batumi.conf.2016.inf.21.e.pdf>

On food for example, Lithuania has pledged to ban the disposal of food in landfills and will establish a service collecting produce that would otherwise have gone to waste from residential areas and the catering sector. Policy measures to reduce food waste will be mapped in Hungary. Netherlands and Switzerland pledged to work on recapturing phosphorous from their economic activities, and Germany announced a programme promoting the sustainable extraction and use of natural resources along the entire value chain.

On ecosystem services, Sweden has tasked its national statistics body to examine how ecosystem services can be included in environmental accounting, and will produce a guide for their valuation. Germany committed to establish methods for the economic valuation of environmental damage to better inform policy makers on the costs of policy alternatives, while Poland will establish a national market for carbon savings from forests and aims to protect them from threats linked to climate change.

Sustainable public procurement is a priority for Italy – where minimum environmental criteria already exist for products related to energy and a new scheme for boosting national eco-products is going to be put in place, and for Croatia – where action plans are already underway and an online platform will be created to exchange practices. Green technology will furthermore receive a boost in Switzerland thanks to a CHF 4.2 million annual promotion loan for pilot projects from both the public and private sectors. Loans, at attractive rates, will also be created in Lithuania to support the energy efficiency of multi-apartment buildings, which will be required to reach a minimum energy rating, thereby creating jobs while curbing consumers' bills and emissions.

Regarding fiscal and other measures, Latvia will revise its tax code to provide incentives for sustainable waste management. Moldova and Georgia announced measures for greening small and medium enterprises, while Luxembourg announced a novel partnership at state and municipality level supporting measures aimed at tackling climate change.

Transitioning to a green economy also involves developing strategies and action plans, like for Austria, Belarus, Georgia and Finland. Romania and Moldova are setting-up intergovernmental and multi-stakeholders platforms, while Kyrgyzstan is developing policies to green the private sector. Finally, a number of organisations pledged to support countries in their green transitions through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, like in the case of GGKP and IRP, and capacity building and technical advisory services, like in the case of UN Environment, UNECE and OECD, CAREC, Eco-Forum and the RECs.

A complete overview of countries' and organizations' commitments, according to the three objectives and nine focus areas of the Strategic Framework, is provided in Table 1 below. Several commitments concern overarching actions, while a number of commitments were identified by the respective country or organizations to contribute to more than one focus area, and therefore appear several times.

The full text of commitments by countries and organizations is included in document (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/13).

Table 1. Overview of BIG-E Commitments

OVERARCHING

Overarching Actions	
Austria	Growth in transition
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Georgia	Elaboration of a Green Growth Strategy of Georgia
Latvia	*Development of a Strategy on low carbon development in Latvia for 2050
Finland	National roadmap for the transition to a green and circular economy
Kazakhstan	Improvement of waste management system; Enhancing sustainable use of water resources; Development of a sustainable and highly productive agriculture; Development of electric power, energy saving and energy efficiency
Kyrgyzstan	Policy development for the transition of the private sector to a green economy in Kyrgyzstan
Portugal	*Single Environmental Permit (SEP)
Republic of Moldova	Coordination of Green Economy promotion in Moldova
Romania	Establish and/or strengthen inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholders working groups/task forces on green economy
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in Central Asia
CAREC	*Promotion of sustainable development of basin territories
CAREC	Supporting regional cooperation on SDGs implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Promotion of best practices on low-carbon development in Central Asian countries
IRP/UN Environment	*Supporting regional and national policy and decision making by providing independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of the sustainable use of natural resources
GGKP	Supporting countries in the transition to a green economy through the generation and dissemination of green growth knowledge
OECD	*Accelerating environmental policy reforms
OECD	*Green investment and finance
UN Environment	*Supporting countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Russian Federation in the transition to a green economy
UNECE	Promoting strategic environmental assessment as a tool for greening the economy in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

OBJECTIVE I – Reduced environmental risks and ecological scarcities

Focus Area 1 - Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	*Development of Legal Foundations for Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Belarus
Germany	*Methodological Convention 3.0 for Estimates of Environmental Costs
Italy	Establishment of the Natural Capital Committee
Sweden	*PAGE, Partnership on Action for a Green Economy
Sweden	*Making the values of ecosystem services visible
Switzerland	*Phosphorous recovery and reuse from wastewater streams and separated organic fractions
Switzerland	*Support of a national resource efficiency network for Small and Medium Enterprises to promote resource efficiency in their products and production processes
Switzerland	*Environmental Technology Promotion
Uzbekistan	*Enhancement of economic incentives for sustainable use of natural resources and for environmental protection
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	Promotion ecosystem approach in Central Asia, including regional and national plans and actions, mapping, valuation of ES and application of PES mechanisms
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in CA
CAREC	*Increase the capacity for the implementation of environmental-economic accounts in the region
CAREC	*Promotion of sustainable development of basin territories
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of Circular Economy in South Caucasus region
REC Central Eastern Europe	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
IRP/UN Environment	*Supporting regional and national policy and decision making by providing independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of the sustainable use of natural resources
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
OECD	*Accelerating environmental policy reforms
UN Environment	*Supporting countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Russian Federation in the transition to a green economy

Focus Area 2 - Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Germany	*Methodological Convention 3.0 for Estimates of Environmental Costs
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Germany	*German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes) – Programme for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources
Italy	Preparation of the Catalogue of environmentally harmful subsidies and environmentally favourable subsidies
Lithuania	Improvement of Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Lithuania
Portugal	Promote the compliance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Switzerland	Improvement in efficiency of waste treatment plants including recycling of rare industrial metals (rare earth metals, precious metals, non-ferrous metals)
Netherlands	Dutch Value Chain Agreement on Closing the Phosphorus Loop (VCAP, 2011): partnership between Dutch farmers, water boards, fertilizer and food industry, knowledge institutes and the Dutch Ministries of Environment and Economic Affairs, focusing on creating a European market for recycled phosphorus
Netherlands	*International Green Deal North Sea Resources (NSRR) Roundabout
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Sweden	*PAGE, Partnership on Action for a Green Economy
Sweden	*Making the values of ecosystem services visible
Uzbekistan	*Enhancement of national legislation on the development of alternative energy sources
Uzbekistan	*Enhancement of economic incentives for sustainable use of natural resources and for environmental protection
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Increase the capacity for the implementation of environmental-economic accounts in the region
CAREC	*Promotion of sustainable development of basin territories
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
GoF 47, UN Environment, GRI	*Group of Friends of Paragraph 47 (GoF47) of the Rio+20 Outcome Document on Corporate Sustainability Reporting
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
OECD	*Accelerating environmental policy reforms

Focus Area 2 - Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital

OECD	*Green investment and finance
OECD	*Strengthening water management
UNECE	*Promotion of water recycling and safe reuse by fostering the exchange of experiences in the pan-European region and identifying policy and technical measures
UNECE	Foster resource efficiency and reduce trade-offs by supporting assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus in transboundary basins
UNECE	*Dissemination of information and promotion of the use of guidance documents on best available techniques to ensure the implementation of clean technologies in various economic activity sectors
UNECE	Promote the use of tools for the internalization of negative externalities

Focus Area 3 - Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure

Finland	Promote transboundary aspects of ecosystem services through joint bodies for transboundary cooperation
Germany	*Methodological Convention 3.0 for Estimates of Environmental Costs
Lithuania	Increase of Forest Coverage in Lithuania
Lithuania	Enhancement of Protected Areas in Lithuania
Poland	Forest Coal Farms
Poland	Small retention in lowlands and mountainous areas
Sweden	*Making the values of ecosystem services visible
Switzerland	*Phosphorous recovery and reuse from wastewater streams and separated organic fractions
Switzerland	*Environmental Technology Promotion
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in Central Asia
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Promotion of best practices on low-carbon development in Central Asian countries
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of Circular Economy in South Caucasus region
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme

OBJECTIVE II – Enhanced economic progress

Focus Area 4 - Shift consumer behaviours towards more sustainable consumption patterns	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	Providing Information on Ecological Product Specifications (Eco Labelling) and Supporting Promotion of Sustainable Consumption
Belarus	*Creating and Developing the Green (Low Carbon) City Public Transport Infrastructure. Creating Incentives for Purchase/ Production of Green (Low Carbon) Vehicles
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Croatia	Develop Sustainable Public Procurement Action Plans/Strategies and set targets
Croatia	Develop capacity for Sustainable Public Procurement and establish information platforms/helpdesk
Croatia	Improvement of implementation and promotion of ecological labels for sustainable goods and services: the national one “Environment Friendly” and EU Ecolabel. Actions will inform producers about benefits of ecolabels and sensitize the public for buying sustainable goods and services
Germany	German National Program for Sustainable Consumption
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Germany	*German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes) – Programme for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources
Hungary	Mapping required measures for decreasing food waste and food loss
Italy	Environmental Criteria in Public Procurement
Italy	Voluntary scheme “Made Green in Italy”
Latvia	Inclusion of the principles of green public procurement in public procurement procedures
Latvia	Revision of the Natural Resource Tax System by including specific requirements on waste management
Latvia	*Development of a Strategy on low carbon development in Latvia for 2050
Lithuania	Supporting Energy Efficiency in Housing Sector in Lithuania
Lithuania	Improvement of the National Waste Management System in Lithuania, by: Separate collection of reusable and recyclable wastes and materials (including deposit system); Banning food waste disposal to landfills and establishing programme for collection of food waste in residential areas and catering services.
Luxemburg	Climate Agreement State - Municipality
Netherlands	Circular construction for government buildings (GPP)
Netherlands	Zero Emission Buses for Public Transport
Poland	*National Energy Advisory System
Portugal	*Electric mobility

Focus Area 4 - Shift consumer behaviours towards more sustainable consumption patterns	
Portugal	*Growing Transport System Efficiency - Promotion of modal shift from individual transport to public transport
Romania	Establish national Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) strategies and plans or include SCP in green economy policies
Slovenia	*Partnership for transition to a green economy
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Uzbekistan	*The introduction of eco-labeling system of products and services
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in Central Asia
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Promotion ecosystem approach in CA, including regional and national plans and actions, mapping, valuation of ES and application of PES mechanisms
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of Circular Economy in South Caucasus region
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of ecosystem approach in South Caucasus
IPEN Eco-Accord	*Phase out the manufacture and sale of decorative paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
OECD	*Strengthening water management
Pistoletto Foundation	*Promote sustainable fashion
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
UN Environment	Supporting countries to promote and implement sustainable public procurement through Ten Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SCP), Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement
UN Environment	*Supporting countries to transition towards inclusive green economy through Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) - assessment, strategic planning, capacity building.

Focus Area 5 - Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	*Development of Legal Foundations for Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Belarus
Belarus	Voluntary Implementation and Ecological Certification of the Environment Management System and Ecological Standards of Products of the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO)
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Croatia	Promote the adoption of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) environmental management and product standards and/or EMAS
Croatia	Establish well-functioning and user-friendly national Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)
Estonia	Supporting resource efficiency in enterprises in Estonia
Estonia	Development of an Estonian Low Carbon Development Strategy up to 2050
Georgia	Promoting Greening SMEs and Resource Efficient Production and Consumption in Georgia
Georgia	Development of Extended Producer Responsibility Policy in Georgia
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Germany	*German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRes) – Programme for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources
Hungary	Energy-efficiency development of buildings with shift toward renewable energy use
Latvia	*Development of a Strategy on low carbon development in Latvia for 2050
Moldova	Greening SMEs - Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns related to SMEs
Moldova	Promotion of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
Moldova	Promotion of organic agriculture in the Republic of Moldova (Including - Implement systems for the certification of organic farms and products)
Moldova	Increase Energy Efficiency (Achieve sustainability of energy systems, increase renewable energy, and implement best policy practices for promoting energy efficiency)
Netherlands	*International Green Deal North Sea Resources (NSRR) Roundabout
Netherlands	Sustainable Fuel Mix
Netherlands	*Zero Emission Buses for Public Transport
Poland	Green Investment Scheme - SOWA – Energy-efficient street lighting
Poland	Green Investment scheme – agricultural biogas plants
Portugal	*Electric mobility

Focus Area 5 - Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns	
Portugal	*Growing Transport System Efficiency - Promotion of modal shift from individual transport to public transport
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Sweden	*PAGE, Partnership on Action for a Green Economy
Switzerland	*Phosphorous recovery and reuse from wastewater streams and separated organic fractions
Switzerland	*Support of a national resource efficiency network for Small and Medium Enterprises to promote resource efficiency in their products and production processes
Switzerland	*Environmental Technology Promotion
Switzerland	*Encourage companies' own engagement for sustainable use of raw materials through dialogue and voluntary agreements – reduction of peat use as a case study
Uzbekistan	*Enhancement of national legislation on the development of alternative energy sources
Uzbekistan	Support of a national resource efficiency network for Small and Medium Enterprises to promote resource efficiency in their products and production processes
Uzbekistan	*The introduction of eco-labeling system of products and services
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in CA
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
IPEN Eco-Accord	*Phase out the manufacture and sale of decorative paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint
GoF 47, UN Environment, GRI	*Group of Friends of Paragraph 47 (GoF47) of the Rio+20 Outcome Document on Corporate Sustainability Reporting
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
OECD	*Green investment and finance
OECD	*Strengthening water management
Pistoletto Foundation	*Promote sustainable fashion
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
UN Environment	*Supporting countries to transition towards inclusive green economy through Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) - assessment, strategic planning, capacity building
UNECE	*Promotion of water recycling and safe reuse by fostering the exchange of experiences in the pan-European region and identifying policy and technical measures
UNECE	*Dissemination of information and promotion of the use of guidance documents on best available techniques to ensure the implementation of clean technologies in various economic activity sectors

Focus Area 6 - Promote green and fair trade	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Hungary	Short supply chains and farmers' markets for sustainable agriculture and trade
Netherlands	*International Green Deal North Sea Resources (NSRR) Roundabout
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Uzbekistan	*Enhancement of national legislation on the development of alternative energy sources
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	Support on realization of transboundary Conventions of UNECE
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of Circular Economy in South Caucasus region
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
UN Environment	*Supporting countries to transition towards inclusive green economy through Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) - assessment, strategic planning, capacity building.

OBJECTIVE III – Improved human well-being and social equity

Focus Area 7 – Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Slovenia	*Partnership for transition to a green economy
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Sweden	*PAGE, Partnership on Action for a Green Economy
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in CA
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of Circular Economy in South Caucasus region
REC CEE	*Setting up and implementing the INTERREG Europe Policy Learning Platforms
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme

Focus Area 8 – Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being	
Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	*Creating and Developing the Green (Low Carbon) City Public Transport Infrastructure, Creating Incentives for Purchase/ Production of Green (Low Carbon) Vehicles
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Hungary	*Conserving the rate of public transport modes
Portugal	*Electric mobility
Portugal	*Single Environmental Permit (SEP)
Portugal	*Growing Transport System Efficiency - Promotion of modal shift from individual transport to public transport
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Uzbekistan	The adoption of the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on municipal solid waste management
CAREC	*Supporting regional cooperation on SDG implementation in Central Asia
CAREC	*Promotion ecosystem approach in CA, including regional and national plans and actions, mapping, valuation of ES and application of PES mechanisms
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus

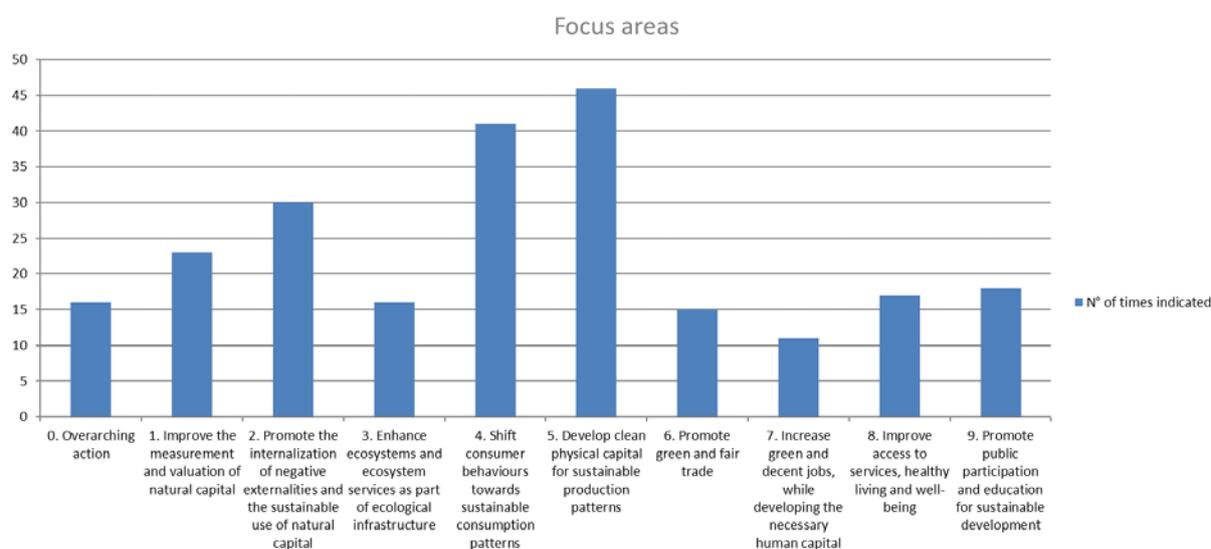
REC Caucasus	*Promotion of ecosystem approach in South Caucasus
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
OECD	*Strengthening water management
UNECE	Increasing access to water and sanitation services to low-income and vulnerable groups in the pan-European region by supporting assessment of the equity of access and the development of action plans

Focus Area 9 – Promote Public Participation and Education for Sustainable Development

Azerbaijan	*Implementation and reporting of environmental dimensions of SDGs in Azerbaijan
Belarus	*Development and Implementation of the National Action Plan for Piloting the Green Economy Principles in Sectors of the Economy of the Republic of Belarus
Georgia	Development and Implementation of Education for Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia
Germany	*Establishment of an International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)
Hungary	*Conserving the rate of public transport modes
Poland	*National Energy Advisory System
Slovenia	*Partnership for transition to a green economy
Sweden	*Strategy and Action Plan for New-industrialization
Switzerland	*Encourage companies' own engagement for sustainable use of raw materials through dialogue and voluntary agreements – reduction of peat use as a case study
CAREC	*Capacity building and information sharing about advantages in transition to green economy in Central Asia
CAREC	Support SEIS principles in the environmental monitoring and reporting in CA countries
REC Caucasus	*Supporting SDG implementation in South Caucasus
REC Caucasus	Support SEIS principles in the environmental monitoring and reporting in South Caucasus
IPEN Eco-Accord	Establishing multistakeholder cooperation to address the obligations of the three chemical conventions (Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam)
OECD	*GREEN Action Programme
Pistoletto Foundation	Rebirth Initiative: Civil Society Forums and Permanent Workshops on Arts and Social Change along the UN SDGs
UNECE	Promoting the extension of education for sustainable development in technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy in UNECE member States
UNECE	Promoting effective and inclusive public participation as a key tool for greening the economy

*BIG-E actions marked with an asterisk were identified by the submitting country/organization to contribute to more than one focus area. They thus appear more than once.

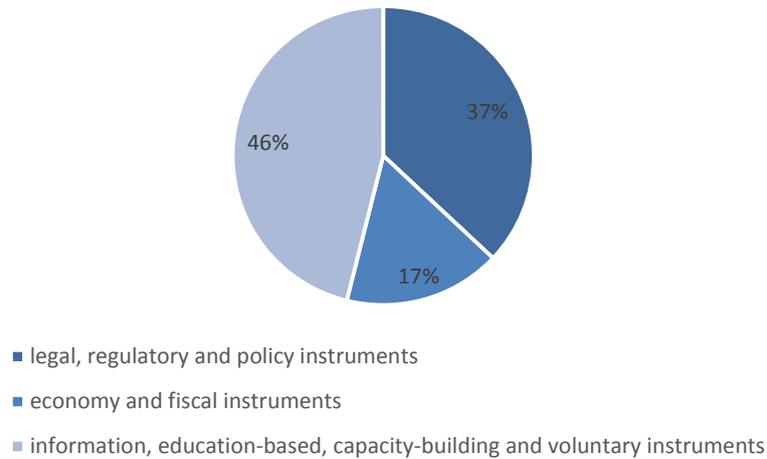
Overall, the received commitments cover all of the nine focus areas of the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, as per the indications in the submission documents, with most of the actions contributing to focus area 1 on Valuation and measurement of natural capital; focus area 2 on the Internalization of externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; focus area 4 on Sustainable consumption habits; and focus area 5 on Clean physical capital for sustainable production. Croatia for instance, committed to develop Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Strategies and Action Plans and capacity to implement them under focus area 4, while Poland will put in place green investment schemes relating to focus area 5, and Italy will prepare a catalogue of environmentally harmful subsidies and environmentally favourable subsidies, which concerns focus area 2. Graph 1 presents an overview of all received BIG-E commitments by focus area of the Strategic Framework, as identified by countries and organizations in their submissions to the EfE secretariat.



Graph1. BIG-E commitments by focus area. This graph presents an overview of BIG-E commitments by focus area, as submitted by countries and organizations to the EfE secretariat. Some BIG-E commitments were identified by the submitting country or organization to contribute to more than one focus area of the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy.

Regarding the type of instruments that countries and organisations are putting in place to achieve the expected outcomes for their commitments, these include mainly information/education/capacity-building/voluntary instruments (46%). Often referred to as “softer instruments”, they include actions aimed at driving behavioural change, with the goal of making consumers and businesses choose green options based on informed decision making (e.g. voluntary certification and labelling schemes, as well as awareness raising campaigns, education and capacity building programmes, knowledge and skills needed to build the necessary human capital for a green economy). Policy/legal/regulatory instruments, including actions to implement command-and-control regulatory measures to change for instance consumption patterns, improve energy efficiency and promote the production of green products, also represent a high share of pledged measures (37%). A smaller share is of economic/fiscal nature (17%), including for instance instruments to adjust environmental taxation and introduce payment for ecosystems services (see Graph 2 reflecting the type of action, as indicated by countries and organisations). This may be linked to the difficulty and complexity of adopting such measures, due to the inherent redistributive effects and possible economic trade-offs.

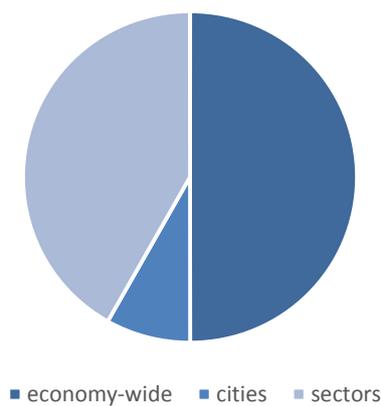
Type of action



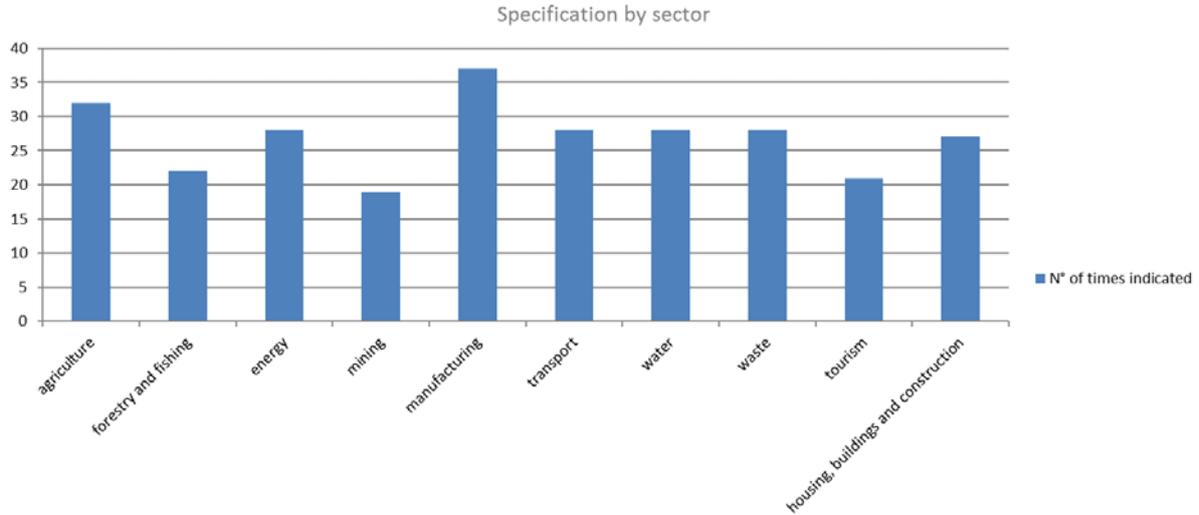
Graph 2. BIG-E commitments by type of action (applied instruments), as submitted by countries and organizations to the EfE secretariat. Some actions were identified by the submitting country or organization to make use of more than one instrument, as certain actions combine multiple activities.

Countries and organisations in their BIG-E submission were also asked to identify the sectors that will be affected by the committed green economy actions. Manufacturing, agriculture, energy, transport, waste, housing, building and construction, forestry & fishing, tourism and mining are those sectors that were primarily mentioned. Sweden for instance, committed to support a national resource efficiency network for SMEs to promote resource efficiency in their manufacturing processes, while Belarus will undertake the development of the legal foundations for organic agriculture. Graphs 3 and 4 illustrate the economic scope and specification by sector of the BIG-E commitments, as identified by countries and organizations in their submissions to the EfE secretariat.

Economic scope

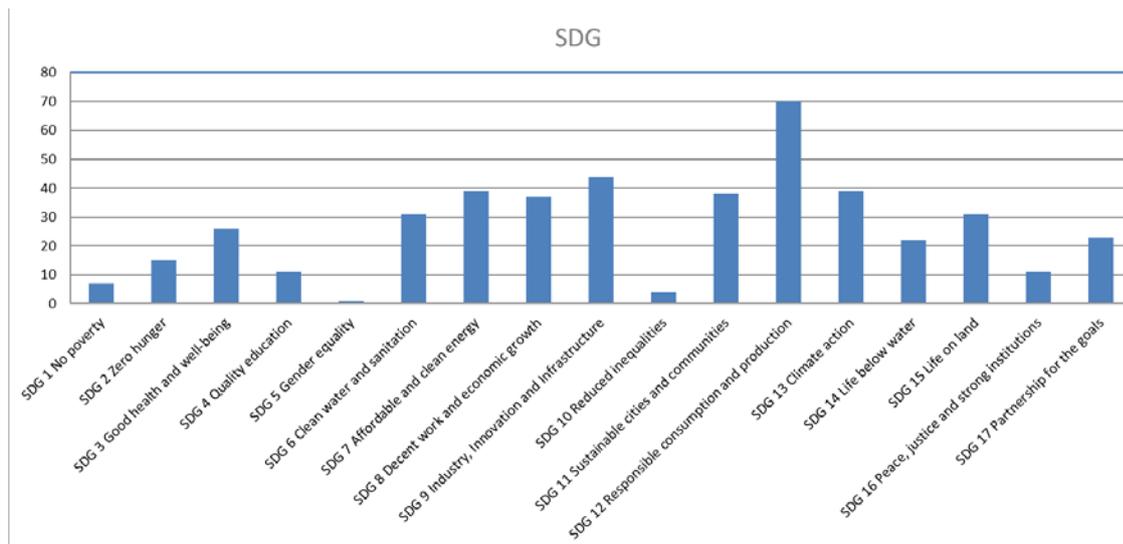


Graph 3. Economic scope of BIG-E commitments. This graph presents an overview of BIG-E commitments by scope (economy-wide/city/sector) as submitted by countries and organizations to the EfE secretariat. In their submissions, countries and organizations have indicated that actions may have a multiple scope (e.g. city/sector), as certain actions combine multiple activities.



Graph 4. BIG-E commitments by economic sector, as submitted by countries and organizations to the EfE secretariat. In their submissions, countries and organizations have indicated that the actions may be relevant to one or more economic sectors, as certain actions combine multiple activities.

While contributing to the objectives and focus areas of the Strategic Framework, the BIG-E commitments help countries of the pan-European region to also reach the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The committed green economy actions were identified to be particularly relevant to SDG 7 on Affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 on Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 on Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 12 on Responsible production and consumption. For instance, in Hungary the mapping of required measures for decreasing food waste and food loss directly contributes to SDG 12, in Lithuania the improvement of water supply and sanitation services contributes to SDG 6, and in Luxemburg the pact State-Municipalities on Climate contributes to SDG 13. Graph 4 illustrates which SDGs the submitted BIG-E commitments contribute to, as identified by the submitting country or organization.



Graph 4. Contribution of BIG-E commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as submitted by countries and organizations to the EfE secretariat. In their submissions, countries and organizations have indicated that the respective action may contribute to achieve one or several SDGs.

3. Conclusions and follow-up

The Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy and the BIG-E Initiative, developed under the EfE process, were designed for the period 2016-2030 allowing for the pan-European process on greening the economies to simultaneously contribute to the global 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Countries will periodically report to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on the progress of achievement of their BIG-E commitments, in accordance with the Strategic Framework. The first reporting on progress is scheduled for 2018, in connection with the EfE mid-term review. In order to facilitate and streamline the reporting on the BIG-E commitments, the EfE Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme and in close consultation with countries and organizations, may undertake an analytical revision of the BIG-E commitments, with a view to identify the most relevant focus area under the Strategic Framework to which each action contributes. Countries, organisations and businesses that are not yet part of the BIG-E stakeholders, are invited to still join the BIG-E. Additional voluntary actions can also be submitted until the EfE mid-term review of 2018 and beyond. The list of possible green economy actions, developed by the group of experts on green economy under the leadership of Switzerland, with support from the secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme, may serve as further inspiration for interested countries and organisations in identifying their BIG-E commitments.