

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Special session

Geneva, 23–25 February 2016

Item 3 (j) of the provisional agenda

The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference: side events

Information paper No. 4

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List of proposed side-events and exhibitions at the Batumi Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Note by the host country secretariat in consultation with the ECE secretariat*

Summary

The Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and Corr.1) adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy in 2009, and subsequently endorsed by ECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences.

At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the Committee expressed its appreciation regarding the progress made in organizing the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) and welcomed the preparations by Georgia for hosting the Conference, and invited interested countries to consider supporting the host country in the organization of the event (see ECE/CEP/2015/2, forthcoming).

The Reform Plan of the Environment for Europe process and the agreed organizational procedures for the Batumi Conference include provisions for the organization of side events (ECE/CEP/2014/15, paras. 36–41). The Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy recommended that side events should be limited to a maximum of four events running in parallel during the designated times for such events, amounting to a total of some 20 side events on the margins of the Conference. Given the limited number of events, interested stakeholders would be encouraged to partner and organize joint side events, hopefully resulting in attracting a higher number of participants for each event. Regarding the organization of exhibitions related to the themes of the Conference, the Bureau recommended that interested stakeholders (countries, organizations and civil society) be encouraged to partner and organize joint exhibitions, e.g., one exhibition for each of the two Conference themes, given the space limitations at the Conference venue (ECE/CEP/2015/3, paras. 38 and 39).

Taking into account the above recommendation by the Bureau, the host country organized the registration of side events and exhibitions through the host country website (<http://efebatumi.com/en/conference/batumi-ministerial-2016>).

The Committee will be invited to consider for information purposes the list of side events and exhibitions provided by the host country secretariat.

* This document was not formally edited. The list of side events is provisional (the 44 side events need to be cut down to some 30 side events with a view to ensure good participation in each event).

<i>No.</i>	<i>Even title</i>	<i>Type of event</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Organizer(s)</i>
Getting the pan-European region ready for sustainable development: multilateral environmental agreements, mechanisms, policies and institutions supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development				
1.	Launch of the Environmental Performance Review of Georgia		Launching the Third Environmental Performance Review of Georgia	1. UNECE 2. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
2.	20 years of Environmental Performance Reviews: impacts, lessons learned and the potential to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals		Launching the joint UNECE-UNEP publication “20 years of Environmental Performance Reviews: impacts, lessons learned and the potential to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals”	1. UNECE 2. UNEP/ROE
3.	RECs as catalysers of sustainable development goals in the CEE, SEE and EECCA regions	Panel Discussion	Presenting the main solutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on SD and the lessons learned by the Regional Environmental Centers within their respective regions	1. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE) 2. REC Caucasus 3. REC for Central Asia (CAREC). The cooperation with UNECE countries and REC Moldova is foreseen
4.	Global Water Partnership: Network for Knowledge on Water Security to Help Stakeholders Move Towards to Achieve SDGs	Panel Discussion	Intensifying cooperation of GWP CACENA with the key regional stakeholders and international community in order to attract their attention and efforts to address the knowledge generation and dissemination on water security which would help key regional stakeholders to move towards achieving SDGs	1. Global Water Partnership Caucasus 2. Central Asia (GWP CACENA) – Regional Secretariat
5.	Environmental PPPs to implement SDGs in EaP countries: from commitments to achieving targets	Panel Discussion	Discussing the progress in environmental policy integration in EaP countries after Agenda 2030 adoption; how countries implement commitments on SDGs environmental targets, in particular, of SDG 12 “Ensuring sustainable consumption and production pattern”	1. European Eco-Forum (in cooperation with EaP SCF WG3)
6.	From Kiev to Batumi and beyond: The prospects for ENVSEC’s contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Panel Discussion	Sharing the achievements of ENVSEC since its launching at the Fifth “Environment For Europe” Ministerial Conference in Kiev, discussing its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and fostering partnership	1. OSCE in co-operation with the other partners of the Environment and Security Initiative- ENVSEC (REC, UNDP, UNECE and UNEP)

Getting the pan-European region ready for sustainable development: keeping the pan-European environment under review

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| 7. | EEA cooperation and SEIS implementation activities in the countries of Eastern Partnership and West Balkan region | Simulation games | Presenting EEA cooperation activities with the Eastern Partnership and West Balkan countries as a follow-up to item2(b) of the Conference agenda | 1. EEA |
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Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development

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| 8. | Master class “Simulation models and exercises to train decision making abilities in ESD” | Simulation games | Promoting abilities in ecosystems management in coherence with human needs and carrying capacity by local community | 1. European ECO-Forum |
| 9. | Master class: Interactive ESD game design “from scratch” | Simulation games | Supporting the development of personal and group creative abilities in designing simple materials and short ESD games easy to be used in class, auditorium, local communities to obtain common experience in “green actions” | 1. European ECO-Forum |
| 10. | “Spreading the word on Sustainability” | | Drawing the attention of the public, policymakers and relevant stakeholders to the non-formal means of education for sustainable development run by young people in Europe | 1. European Environment and Health Youth Coalition |
| 11. | Education for sustainable development | | Integrating sustainable development issues related to the mountainous regions into the secondary and higher education systems of Georgia | 1. Ivane Javakhishvili, Tbilisi State University, Geographical Society of Georgia |

Greening the economy in the pan-European region

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| 12. | The role of strategic environmental assessment in greening the economy | Panel of high-level representatives | Promoting SEA as a tool for greening economies among the high level officials of the UNECE countries | 1. The Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
2. The Netherlands Environmental Ministry
3. The UNECE
4. The Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia (tbc) |
| 13. | Riding towards green economy: cycling and green jobs | Keynote speech
Panel discussion
Launch of a study | Launching the study on Green jobs associated with cycling; demonstrating how working in partnership under the tri-partite framework of THE PEP, Member States are developing and benefiting from the links between cycling, clean air, better health and the green economy; highlighting THE PEP | 1. UNECE
2. WHO/Europe
3. UNEP
4. Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water |

		activities, in particular its partnership on cycling, as sustainable means to implement selected SDGs across the pan-European Region	Management 5. Georgia (tbc) 6. Other Member States will contribute
14. Greening the Economy and Sustainable Development in Central Asia - Current Achievements and the Way Forward		Promoting recent developments and results so far in the areas of green economy and sustainable development in the Central Asia region; presenting regional vision of EfE process and discussing the way forward among wider range of stakeholders and partners	1. UNEP/ROE 2. The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) 3. UNECE
15. Development of Green Economy in Balkan Countries		Sharing sub regional approach in developing the green economy	1. Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia
16. Greening Economies in Eastern Partnership Countries		Reporting about the preliminary outcomes of the EAP Green project	1. OECD/EAP Task Force
17. Implementing Green Growth in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia [<i>consider joining the two OECD events on GE</i>]		Sharing the achievements made since Astana conference; reporting about present/future areas of work	1. OECD/EAP Task Force
18. Circular economy in Central and Eastern Europe and its neighbouring region: business opportunities, innovative solutions, job creation and growth potential. [<i>consider joining to the two OECD events on GE</i>]	Panel discussion	Sharing experiences, knowledge and lessons learned with regards to implementing a circular economy concept in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and its neighbouring region (SEE and Eastern Partnership).	1. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE)
19. Towards greening the economy across sectors through nexus assessments: lessons from the Alazani/Ganykh and the Syr Darya River Basins	Panel discussion	Presenting the findings from assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins in the Alazani/Ganykh and the Syr Darya River Basin	1. UNECE 2. GWP Georgia 3. GWP Kyrgyzstan
20. Supporting Kazakhstan's transition to a Green Economy Model with focus to water sector		Sharing information about the project	1. UNDP
21. The Portuguese Green Growth Commitment		Sharing the experience of the green growth commitment as an example of interest considering the Batumi Strategic Framework per Greening the	1. Ministry of Environment of Portugal

		Economy	
22.	Ecoregional Nature Protection Programme in South Caucasus contributing to green economy (German Financial Cooperation)		Making the four programme components known to potential partners for cooperation
			1. Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the Southern Caucasus
23.	Promoting Green Economy in the Caucasus	Panel discussion	Facilitating the discussion among countries from the pan-European region on environmentally friendly economic growth, using the Georgian cases as an example. The following areas will be covered: municipal waste management, responsible mining and sustainable forest governance
			1. Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
24.	Mainstreaming practical application of green development mechanisms into environmental policies and practice in South Caucasus [<i>consider to join with the above two events on GE in Caucasus</i>]		Presenting national, (sub)-regional activities in addressing green growth and mainstreaming practical application of green development mechanisms into environmental policies and practice
			1. The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
25.	Enabling green growth through nature-based solutions	Panel discussion	Demonstrating the effectiveness of nature-based solutions in light of promoting green economies and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
			1. IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
26.	The role of civil society organizations in Green economy development through promoting sound chemicals management		Highlighting examples of best practices and cooperation between local authorities, local self-government bodies, private sector, NGOs, and other major groups in the process of addressing problems on chemical safety in the region; Identifying how the EfE process can further promote public participation in all projects and programs focused on chemical safety in the region as a necessary condition for the provision of support to projects on “green economy development” at the national and regional level
			1. Eco-Accord 2. International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) 3. Health and Environmental Justice Support (Germany) 4. The Independent Ecological Expertise (Kyrgyzstan) 5. The Foundation in Support Civil Initiatives (Tajikistan)
27.	Sustainable Waste Management for Greener Economies in Georgia: Opportunities and Challenges for greening the business - NGO view	Panel discussion	Presenting the existing opportunities and challenges for greening the business in the waste management field. The civil society views as well as business sector experiences will be presented regarding resource efficiency and cleaner production, green business
			1. The Greens Movement of Georgia / Friends of the Earth - Georgia (GMG/FoE-G) 2. Environmental Information and Sustainable Development Centre RIO

		development and voluntary environmental initiatives in Georgia	3.Orchis Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” 4.Ecological Awareness and Waste Management
28. Greening the Economy through Sustainable Production and Consumption		Promoting policy coherence between green economy and SCP plans and activities	1. European ECO Forum
29. Green investment for greening economy: perspectives for the State and people		Promoting private finance for green investment in the interests of the local community and the requirements of international environmental agreements	1. European ECO Forum
30. CSOs of Georgian Eastern Partnership National Platform for Advancing of Green Economy		Promoting good governance, transparency and the role of CSOs in policy making for green economy	1. Foundation Caucasus Environment
Improving air quality for a better environment and human health			
31. Clean air – quality life: Policy solutions for the world’s largest environmental health risk	Panel discussion	Providing ideas for stimulating the Ministerial discussions on ‘Improving air quality for a better environment and human health’	1. UNECE 2. German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) 3. Climate and Clean Air Coalition
32. Addressing air pollution: working in partnership to link evidence, data and policy in support of Member States	Panel discussion	Based on the example of air-pollution illustrating how the platforms provided by the Environment and Health Process (EHP) and Environment for Europe (EfE) support strategic partnerships among inter-governmental agencies that facilitate Member States access to evidence of the health effects of environmental risk factors, environmental monitoring data to inform the implementation of the political commitments taken under policy frameworks such as the LRTAP Convention. Informing the negotiations of the political outcome document of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to be held in 2017	1. World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe 2. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 3. European Environment Agency
33. Public Access to Up-to-Date Air Quality Data via Internet	Workshop	Informing on latest developments, promoting technical and organisational improvements in Public Access to Up-	1.Environment Agency Austria 2.UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)

		to-Date Air Quality Data via Internet	
34. Emerging Environmental Health Challenges in the UNECE region – key recommendations from the EfE Ministerial Conference 2016 to the Environment for Health Ministerial Conference 2017		Highlighting examples of best practices and cooperation which already exists within the UNECE region and identify how the EfE process can promote further actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.WECF International 2.WECF Georgia 3.Eco-Forum Russia 4.Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment 5.Georgian Foundation Caucasus Environment 6.Institute of Labour Medicine and Ecology 7.Georgia Greens Movement 8.RCDA Georgia 9.Biom NGO Kyrgyzstan 10.Alga Rural Women’s Association Kyrgyzstan 11.Social Eco Fund Kazakhstan, for the Environment and Health Issue Group of the European Eco-Forum"
35. PRTR as a tool of air quality public monitoring		Sharing existing experience and discussing the NGO contributions in promoting the implementation of the PRTR in EECCA countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European ECO Forum
36. Air pollution reduction as a key to achieve sustainable Europe	Panel discussion	Discussing the cooperation measures within UNECE region to achieve targets on air pollution reduction from main emission sources in EECCA countries (taking into account their specific differences), democratization of permitting procedures based on PRTRs, improving information provision for population, applying public participation procedures for citizens and to produce joint recommendations based on discussion output	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European ECO Forum
37. City in Motion: People first [<i>consider to join with the “Riding towards green economy: cycling and green jobs”</i>]	Panel discussion	Drawing the attention of the public, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders to the views of young people on issues related to transport, health and the environment in pan-European region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European Environment and Health Youth Coalition
Other			
38. EUWI East+ - Strengthening water management in the EU Neighbourhood East countries	Panel discussion	Informing on the EUWI East+ Programme, discussing targets and expectations of Beneficiary Countries, discussing links between Astana Water Action and EUWI East+	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt GmbH)
39. Information Session on		Sharing FLEG II program results and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WWF Caucasus Programme

			impacts; illustrating ongoing good practices	Office
			“European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II Program”	
40.	The Role of Forest Sector in a Green Economy – Rovaniemi Action Plan		Sharing the information about the Rovaniemi Action Plan – the tool for implementing a green economy in the forest sector and showcase how the exiting forest and ecosystem management techniques can contribute to greening the economy	1. UNECE/FAO
41.	Site visit: modern waste water treatment plant Batumi	Site visit	Presenting modern, energy-efficient, environmentally friendly waste water treatment plant	1. Municipality of Batumi
42.	The Economics of Land Degradation – Sustainable development as a key for economic growth	Panel of high-level representatives of Central Asia and Georgia	Presenting and discussing the findings on economic impact of land management ; Showcase the relevance of sound environmental management to economic prosperity	1. GIZ
43.	Land Degradation Neutrality: contribution of CEE to a sustainable world within the UNCCD framework [consider joining with the above GIZ event]	Panel discussion	Presenting national, (sub)-regional activities in addressing land degradation and achieving land degradation neutrality	1. The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
44.	Global/Regional/National Application of Rio Principle 10: UNEP Bali Guidelines and the Environmental Democracy Index		Enhancing awareness and linkages between Efe initiatives on Rio Principle 10 and initiatives from outside the region	1. Central European University in partnership with 2. United Nations Environment Program, World Resources Institute

Exhibitions

1.	(Tentatively) UNECE, UNEP, EEA: Together for Europe’s environment		Presenting UNECE, UNEP and EEA activities and outputs relevant to the objectives and theme of the conference	1. European Environment Agency in partnership with 2. UNECE 3. UNEP (tbc)
2.	Riding towards green economy: cycling and green jobs		Showing how working in partnership under the tri-partite framework of the Transport Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), Member States are benefiting from the links between cycling, clean air, better health and green economy	1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2. World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe 3. United Nations Environment Programme

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| 3. Exhibition “Greening the Economy and Sustainable Development in Central Asia” | Presenting recent developments and results in the areas of green economy and sustainable development in the Central Asia region | 1. The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) |
| 4. Land Degradation Neutrality | Representation, outreach, partnership building, accountability, dialogue | 1. Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| 5. AirPack – innovative education tool for building a healthy school environment | Providing resources for teaching children about indoor air quality in schools.
Sharing tool recommended for use with children aged between 8 and 11. | 1. The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE).
The cooperation with Italy and Albania is foreseen |
| 6. Photo Exhibition On “Green Economy: Challenges and Opportunities In the South Caucasus | Awareness raising on waste management, mining industry and forestry sector issues: challenges and opportunities for the green economy and growth | 1. Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) |
| 7. Exhibition | | 1. European ECO Forum |
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