



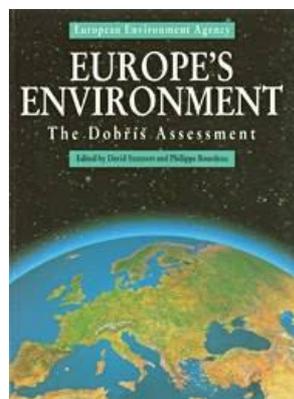
Item 5 on environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

Options for the next pan-European Assessment

**Twenty-fourth session of the UNECE CEP
Geneva, 29-31 January 2019**

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Pan-European environmental assessments





Mandate & role of WGEMA

At its twenty-second session, in January 2017, the Committee adopted the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for 2017–2021, as set out in annex II to ECE/CEP/2017/2, which includes:

(a) “The aim of the Working Group, under the oversight of the Committee, is to: ... (b) **Lead a process of consultation on the regular pan-European environmental assessment** and the streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting by 2020” (para. 2);



Elements for consideration

- The mandate is for a regular process of environmental assessment in the pan-European region based on SEIS;
- The member States must be given the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the assessment;
- There needs to be clear authorship, clear ownership and a clear role for the Working Group;
- The Committee on Environmental Policy must have the final say on draft messages for Ministers;
- The assessment must be linked to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;
- The assessment should also address green economy in the pan-European region;
- In an effort to streamline reporting at the regional level, the EEA SOER 2020 assessment needs to be used.



Options

1. Comprehensive integrated environmental assessment for pan-European region
2. Thematic assessment based on the themes for the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference
3. Indicator-based report based on ECE environmental indicators, reflecting the establishment of SEIS in the region



Option 1

Comprehensive integrated environmental assessment for pan-European region

- Is resource intensive, with a high cost and significant staff and experts time;
- Is potentially very useful for policymakers and includes an outlook perspective;
- Is potentially difficult to integrate with the EEA SOER 2020;
- Is difficult to produce in a short timeframe, depending on the themes selected by the Committee on Environmental Policy for the Ninth Environment for Europe Conference;
- It may not be possible to synchronize with the next GEO cycle (GEO-7)



Option 2

Thematic assessment based on the themes for the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

- Involves the development of a synthesis or review of various policy relevant issues in the form of a short policy-relevant report;
- Means that the report could include specific chapters on assessing progress in implementing certain Batumi Conference outcomes and other policy relevant themes:
 - Air quality
 - Green economy
 - The establishment of SEIS)
 - Selected, relevant Sustainable Development Goals according to Voluntary National Reports
 - Drivers and pressures across the region
 - The two chosen themes of the conference



Option 3

Indicator-based report based on ECE environmental indicators, reflecting the establishment of SEIS in the region

- Means that the type of assessment will depend on the comparability of the indicators across the whole region and the (often limited) availability of the data in each country;
- Offers a possibility to focus on the indicators for the region using the DPSIR framework drawing from regional data sets held by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations.



Role of WGEMA

- To be consulted and agree on the objectives, scope (policy relevant questions / themes/ content) and process (use of experts/ peer review [scientific integrity]) of the assessment;
- To agree the annotated outline for the assessment and table of contents;
- To participate actively in the intergovernmental peer review process and assure the policy relevance of the assessment; and
- Donors will be required.



Outcomes of the discussions at WGEMA

51. The Working Group noted the draft concept for the next pan-European environmental assessment, as presented by UNEP, and invited its members to send to the secretariat by 20 September 2018 concrete suggestions for the modalities, scope and form of such an assessment. It requested the secretariat and UNEP, in consultation with the European Environment Agency, to develop a revised concept and share it with the Working Group members.

52. The Working Group also requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on Environmental Policy on the outcomes of this agenda item and the suggestions made for the pan-European assessment.

Thank you

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