

Environmental Performance Review Programme

An Environmental Performance Review (EPR) is an assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Following the successful launching of the EPR programme by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for its members in 1991, European Environment Ministers requested United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the Second Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Lucerne, Switzerland, 1993) to undertake EPRs in Europe's countries in transition.

The **main objectives** of the ECE EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as agricultural, energy, transport and health policies;
- To promote greater accountability to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community.

As a voluntary exercise, the EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. The assessing team is made up of international experts and meets with national experts in the country under review to discuss issues covered by the review.

The report contains recommendations for further improvement, taking into consideration the country's progress since the previous review. Peer review of the report and of its recommendations is carried out by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

First-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations.

From 1994, the first cycle of reviews was performed in the following countries of the ECE region: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate greater accountability. Emphasis was placed on implementation and financing of the environment policy, integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, and promotion of sustainable development.

Since 2000, ECE has carried out second EPRs in the following countries: Albania,

Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

At the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011), Ministers and Heads of delegation reaffirmed their support to ECE EPR Programme. They encourage ECE to pursue with the third cycle.

Third-cycle EPRs include environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors. Since 2017, third-cycle EPRs include the review of relevant goals and targets of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

Since 2012, ECE has carried out third EPRs in the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the EPR methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside of the ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other UN regional commissions. Morocco was reviewed by ECE in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and Mongolia – in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific.

Review mission: 12-20 March 2018

I. Environmental governance and financing

1. Legal and policy framework (Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE, iulia.trombitcaia@un.org)
2. Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms (Ms. Elisabete Quintas da Silva, Portugal, Elisabete.Quintas@adcoesao.pt)
3. Green economy and trade (Mr. Takayoshi Kato, OECD, Takayoshi.KATO@oecd.org)
4. Environmental monitoring, information, public participation and education (Mr. Tomas Marques, UNEP, tomas.marques@un.org, and Ms. Angela Sochirca, UNECE, Angela.Sochirca@un.org)
5. Climate change (Ms. Alessandra Fidanza, Italy, fidanza.alessandra@minambiente.it)

II. Media and pollution management

6. Air protection (Mr. Cornelis Braams, UNECE consultant, ctbraams@chello.nl)
7. Water management (Mr. Volodymyr Pushkar, Germany, volodymyr.pushkar@lfu.bayern.de)
8. Waste and chemicals management (Mr. Juraj Farkaš, UNECE consultant, jfarkas@integrated-skills.com)
9. Biodiversity and protected areas (Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, UNECE consultant, zbig-niew@wp.pl)

III. Integration of environment into selected sectors/issues

10. Energy and environment (Mr. Viktor Badaker, UNECE, viktor.badaker@un.org)
11. Industry and environment (Ms. Karin Fuéri, UNECE consultant, karin.fueri@outlook.fr)
12. Agriculture and environment (Mr. András Guti, Hungary, andras.guti@fm.gov.hu)
13. Health and environment (Ms. Irina Zastenskaya, WHO, zastenskayai@who.int)

For more information

United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Palais des Nations

Mr. Antoine Nunes
Programme Manager
Tel.: + 41 (0) 22 917 2351
antoine.nunes@un.org

Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia
Substantive coordinator
Tel.: + 41 (0) 22 917 3332
iulia.trombitcaia@unece.org

Oksana Rott
Logistics coordinator
Tel.: + 41 (0) 22 917 2447
oksana.rott@unece.org

Environmental Performance Reviews

EPR reports may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Free access to EPR reports is also available on our website.

Visit our website:

<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/>

Contact us:

info.epr@unece.org

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS



Third review



UNITED NATIONS