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“Environment for Europe” Process

The Sixth Ministerial Conference

Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE



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“Environment for Europe” process

- **unique partnership of UNECE member States, organizations of the UN system represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations, RECs, NGOs and other stakeholders**
- **a mechanism for international environmental governance providing a platform for delivering multilateral policy and legal instruments**
- **general objectives are to address environmental problems in the region and to help EECCA and SEE countries to raise their standards towards a similar standard throughout the region.**
- **UNECE has been closely associated with the Environment for Europe process since the beginning & serves as secretariat.**



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How does it work?





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❖ **Dobris Castle, 21-23 June 1991**

(37 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

❖ **Lucerne, 28-30 April 1993**

(49 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

❖ **Sofia, 23-25 October 1995**

(52 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

❖ **Aarhus, 23-25 June 1998**

(52 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

❖ **Kiev, 21-23 May 2003**

(51 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

❖ **Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007**



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Major outcomes:

- **4 assessments on the state of the environment in pan-European region**
 - ✓ Dobris assessment
 - ✓ Aarhus assessment
 - ✓ Kiev assessment
 - ✓ Belgrade assessment
- **Setting up institutional mechanisms for cooperation**
 - ✓ Endorsed the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe and set up a Task Force to implement the Programme
 - ✓ Established a Project Preparation Committee to focus on environmental investments as a networking mechanism
 - ✓ Initiated the establishment of RECs



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Major outcomes:

- **A driving force for establishing the MEAs and environmental policy instruments, such as:**
 - ✓ Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity
 - ✓ Aarhus Convention
 - ✓ Protocols on heavy metals and on POPs to the CLRTAP
 - ✓ Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol
 - ✓ Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
 - ✓ Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention
 - ✓ Protocol on PRTR to the Aarhus Convention
 - ✓ Protocol on Civil Liability to the Industrial Accidents and the Water Conventions
 - ✓ Environment Strategy for EECCA
 - ✓ Carpathian Convention



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Major outcomes:

- **Promoting cross-sectoral activities and policy integration**
 - ✓ Energy efficiency
 - ✓ Education for Sustainable Development
 - ✓ Policy integration with regard to business, industry and the environment
 - **Joint session of Ministers and NGOs organised within the framework of EfE Conferences**
 - ✓ On strengthening participatory democracy for sustainable development (Aarhus)
 - ✓ On policy integration (Kiev)
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Preparations for the Belgrade Conference

focus on implementation and review of progress of the commitments made with following overall framework and issues:

➤ Evaluation and Implementation

- ✓ State of the environment and monitoring and assessment
- ✓ Progress in implementation of MEAs and EPRs
- ✓ Education for sustainable development
- ✓ Biodiversity

➤ Capacity building and Partnerships

- ✓ EECCA perspectives
- ✓ SEE perspectives
- ✓ Partnerships and environmental financing

➤ The Future of EfE process



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Outline of the Agenda of the Belgrade Ministerial Conference

“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE”					
Evaluation and Implementation		Capacity-building and Partnerships		The Way Forward	
Day 1 (Wednesday, 10 October 2007)		Day 2 (Thursday, 11 October 2007)		Day 3 (Friday, 12 October 2007)	
Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic	Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic	Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic
9 a.m.– 10 a.m.– 10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	1. Official opening of the Conference (1 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> 2. Assessment and implementation (3 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> (a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment (1.5 h) (b) Implementation of MEAs and findings of UNECE EPRs (1.5 h)	9 a.m.– 1 p.m.	5. Capacity-building (4 h) (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development (2 h) <i>(plenary session and panel discussion)</i> (b) South-East European perspectives (2 h) <i>(plenary session)</i>	9.30a.m. – 1p.m.	7. The future of the EfE process (2.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> Ministerial Declaration and the future of the EfE process 8. Closure of the Conference (0.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> Chairperson’s Summary
1 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.	Lunchtime	1 p.m.– 3 p.m.	Lunchtime	1 p.m.– 3 p.m.	Lunchtime
2:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.	SPECIAL SESSIONS 3. Joint session on education for sustainable development (2h) <i>(plenary session)</i> 4. Biodiversity (2 h) <i>(roundtable of NGOs and ministers)</i>	3 p.m.– 7 p.m.	6. Partnerships (4 h) <i>(two consecutive roundtables)</i> (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment? (1.5h) (b) Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes (2.5 h)		



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**For more information visit:
www.unece.org/env/efe**