



Outcomes of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7 October 2022)

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Environment for Europe: History



ENVIRONMENT

- EfE process launched in 1991
- Has been supporting countries' efforts to advance in environmental governance
- Unique partnership of the UNECE Member States, United Nations system organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, Regional Environmental Centers, NGOs, Private sector, other major groups
- UNECE serves as its secretariat; UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy is responsible for preparing the Ministerial Conferences (since 2009)
- The process continues to provide the framework for the development of:
 - governance policies and initiatives
 - legal instruments and policies
 - practical actions and tools

31 years of EfE process: Outcomes



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- The ECE Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews;
- The ECE programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;
- The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
- The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention);
- The Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- The Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol;
- The ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;
- The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context;
- The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention;
- The Protocol on Civil Liability to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention);
- The Environment Strategy for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries;
- The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
- Political initiatives, e.g. the latest:
 - Astana Water Action (AWA) – 2011-2016
 - Batumi Initiative on Greening the Economy (BIG-E)
 - Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
- a series of guidelines and recommendations to Governments.

EfE: 9 Ministerial Conferences

1991-2022

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9th EfE Ministerial in Nicosia: Figures

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- Held 5-7 October 2022 in Nicosia, Cyprus
- 899 participants attending
- Participants from 62 countries + European Commission
- Government delegations from 53 countries + EC (42 UNECE countries and 11 other States)
- Gov. delegates from 5 SPECA countries
- NGOs, academia, business
- 38 side-events (number had to be limited due to the decision not to run side-events in parallel to the Conference sessions)



TRANSFORMING
PLANET



9th EfE Ministerial: Themes & outcomes

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themes

1. Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure.
2. Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism

Also: Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries

Parallel Ministerial Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

key outcomes

- ✓ Ministerial Declaration
- ✓ Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy & Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) – Progress report and the Nicosia Call
- ✓ Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) – Final report
- ✓ Nicosia Ministerial Statement on ESD
- ✓ Framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030
- ✓ Co-Chair's Summary



Outcomes: Ministerial Declaration



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https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_NICOSIA.CONF_2022_L1_E.pdf

11. We will support efforts to **reduce water and energy use** and greenhouse gas emissions from tourism, particularly from high-impact subsectors (including cruise liners, aviation and accommodation), as well as to **improve efficiency in the use of ... water**. We also commit to **improving wastewater treatment** and waste management, including food waste and plastics, in the tourism sector, and to applying circular economy principles across the tourism value chain. ...

16. We acknowledge the importance of regular, indicator-based environmental assessments, and confirm our commitment to keeping the pan-European region under regular review in support of sustainable development and the transition to a circular, green and sustainable economy. We take note of the key findings of the seventh pan-European assessment, produced by ECE and the United Nations Environment Programme, and the urgent need in particular to:

- Pursue **integrated water resources management, transboundary water cooperation and integrated coastal zone management**.
- **Reverse the degradation of coastal waters**, marine ecosystems and seas, and enhance efforts to achieve the global targets of protection and conservation of at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas across the region by 2030.
- Prevent pollution to air, **water** and soil to drive towards a pollution-free planet.

Outcomes: Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) – Progress report and the Nicosia Call



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<https://unece.org/big-e>

- BIG-E total:
 - 191 Commitments from:
 - 32 countries (incl. AZE, KAZ, KGZ, UZB)
 - 13 organizations (incl. CAREC)
- Of it, Nicosia Call:
 - 68 Commitments from:
 - 19 countries (incl. AZE, KAZ)
 - 6 organizations (incl. CAREC)

More information at:

www.unece.org – UNECE secretariat

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Thank you for attention!