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Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe”

Ministerial Conference: side events

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List of side-events at the Astana Ministerial Conference

Note by the host country secretariat

No.	Event title	Type of event	Purpose	Organizer(s)
1.	Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region	Panel of high-level representatives from water authorities	Sharing information on priority tasks (political, technical and economic) to improve the status of transboundary waters in EECCA, SEE and EU countries	UNECE, Finland, IWAC
2.	Jointly adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	Panel of high-level representatives and experts from water authorities	Informing and discussing about challenges, progress and lessons learnt regarding adapting of water management to climate change, with a particular focus on transboundary basins	UNECE, UNDP, Kazakhstan, Germany, Netherlands (tbc)
3.	Supporting implementation of IWRM principles at the national level in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues and other initiatives	Panel of high-level representatives from water and environmental authorities	Exchanging experiences and lessons learnt during the implementation of activities carried out under the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and planning for the future	UNECE, European Commission, Ministry of the Environment and Forestry of Romania, OECD
4.	Water quality in Central Asia	Panel of high-level representatives from water and environmental authorities	Presenting activities under the Project “Water Quality in Central Asia” and exchange of experience on water quality cooperation, including under the framework of the UNECE Water Convention	UNECE, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
5.	Protocol on Water and Health: where water, environment and health meet	Panel of Parties and other important stakeholders under the Protocol	Demonstrating, through practical examples, the implementation, challenges and lessons learnt, as well as the added value of the intersectoral approach promoted by the Protocol	UNECE, Norway, Romania, Hungary, WHO/Europe

No.	Event title	Type of event	Purpose	Organizer(s)
6.	GIZ side event, devoted to the Programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia”, where UNECE leads implementation of component 1	Panel of high-level representatives from water and environmental authorities of Central Asian countries, international organizations and donors working in Central Asia	Presenting activities under the Programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” including UNECE Project “Regional Dialogue and Understanding of Water Resources Management in Central Asia”	UNECE, GIZ, EC IFAS
7.	Making THE Link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity	Panel discussion to launch publication on green economy and transport	Highlighting win-win-win opportunities in transport that are healthy, environmentally sustainable and also benefit the economy	UNECE, WHO/Europe
8.	The role of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in greening the economy	Multi-stakeholder panel representing stakeholders of the Strategy for ESD (incl. representatives of Education and Environment Ministries and of NGOs)	Discussing and presenting the importance of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for greening the economy	UNECE
9.	Importance of impact assessment in planning related to greening the economy and in sustainable water management	Informal panel discussion	Demonstrating the effectiveness and importance of impact assessment processes in planning and policymaking, integrating the environment into economic development and supporting the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems	UNECE, UNDP, UNEP, Switzerland
10.	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers: an efficient tool for sustainable water management	Panel of experts	Promoting the implementation of PRTRs and the ratification of the PRTR Protocol within the UNECE and beyond as an efficient tool towards achieving a sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems	UNECE
11.	Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy: ways to make them business-as-usual	Workshop	Sharing the experience of implementation of the Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation (FEEI), Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) and other relevant projects of the Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme, to share experience of countries and financial institutions in financing of EE and RE projects, to outline challenges and ways to overcome them in promoting EE and RE investments	UNECE
12.	Setting the bar for water and security risk management	Side-event with presentations and panel discussions	Demonstrating the ENVSEC instrument for risk management and cooperation	Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)
13.	Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs)	Round table/workshop	Discussing the 3 rd cycle of EPRs and launching the 2010 EPRs of Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNECE

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14.	Catalyzing investments into Green Growth through climate change financing mechanisms – Opportunities for Central Asia	Workshop	Raising awareness and understanding of the opportunities which arise from the new international climate change financing mechanisms like NAMAs and sectoral approaches in order to spur investment into low carbon growth	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, Germany
15.	Capacity Building on obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries: a sustainable Strategy to protect Water Resources	Workshop	Raising more public and political awareness on the dangers of obsolete pesticides to water and the prevention of contamination	FAO, Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) & Int. HCH & Pesticides Association
16.	Payment for Ecosystem Services - creating win-win situations for Central Asia's environment	Workshop	Presenting the progress and overview of the PES perspectives in Central Asia	UNECE, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
17.	Economic growth and water; integrated approach helps	Workshop and exhibition booth with GWP materials	Discussing gaps between a positive political will to manage water resources effectively and challenges in implementation of national water related policies	Global Water Partnership
18.	20 years after Dobříš Conference - Milestones, Achievements and Challenges of the UNECE “Environment for Europe” Process (1991-2011)	Presentation/workshop	Awareness raising, identification of future objectives for the EfE Process, evaluation of the 20 years since the beginning of the Process	Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic
19.	Montreal Protocol contribution to Green Economy	Exhibition: 3days Side event: 1 hour presentation & discussion followed by lunch (any day when conference room 7 or 8 is available)	Raising high-level awareness on those aspects of Montreal Protocol implementation which go beyond the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances and ozone layer recovery. The contents of the exhibition and side event will be based on the results of a study on the Montreal Protocol's contribution to Green Economy which has recently been conducted by UNEP's OzonAction Branch	UNEP DTIE
20.	Finnish Best Practices for Clean and Safe Environment	Seminar	Demonstrating Finnish best practices on water issues and cleantech	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute and Ministry of the Environment of Finland, Finnish Water Forum
21.	New strategy for Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)	Side-event with presentation and endorsement of new strategy & discussions	Endorsement of new Pan-European Biodiversity strategy	UNEP
22.	The GreenEvo Project – the international transfer of green technologies and support for developing countries in the transition process	Seminar	Emphasizing the role of the international transfer of green technologies as the tool for supporting developing countries	Ministry of the Environment, Poland

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23.	Green Buildings in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus	Workshop	Exchanging knowledge and presenting best practices on policies, technologies and know-how on green buildings and energy efficiency based on portfolio of UNDP-GEF supported projects in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan	UNDP Office in Kazakhstan
24.	EECCA component of Assessment of Assessments (process and findings) as a gateway for future report-net and SEIS oriented cooperation	Workshop	Sharing findings of EECCA component of AoA in terms of future cooperation opportunities with EU on the base of the report-net and SEIS	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
25.	The Shared Environmental Information System as basis for regular reporting on the state of the environment	Side event	Discussing the benefits of the Shared Environmental Information System in the context of the AoA report	European Environment Agency
26.	Strengthening water management through innovative treatment technologies: upflow sludge blanket filtration in practical use	Workshop	Presenting USBF (upflow sludge blanket filtration) treatment technology	ECOFLUID GROUP, s.r.o., Czech Republic
27.	Partnership program on implementation Astana "Green bridge" Initiative	Side event	Promoting Astana "Green bridge" Initiative	RSE "Informational and analytical center of environmental protection", Ministry of environmental protection, Republic of Kazakhstan
28.	Social responsibility of business in the area of solid waste management	Side event	Discussing readiness of the business community to invest in processing of packaging materials	UNDP Office in Kazakhstan
29.	How to cope with climate-related risks: best practices and approaches	Presentation of best approaches	Raising awareness and interest of general public, stakeholders and potential donors on the relevance of adaptation and climate-risk management measures, their feasibility and direct positive effect on the livelihoods of rural communities	Ministry of Environmental Protection, Republic of Kazakhstan
30.	Astana "Green bridge" Initiative: Kazakhstan and low carbon development	Side event	Demonstrating Kazakhstan's experience of transition to the low carbon development, search of partners, experience exchange	Ministry of environmental protection, Republic of Kazakhstan
31.	International Trade and transition to Green Economy	Information and discussion meeting	Discussing the role of trade in the process of transition to "green" economy; Identifying the steps necessary to take at the international and national level to ensure the trade become a factor, rather than an obstacle in "greening" the economy	«Eco-Accord» Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (Russian Federation)
32.	Towards the 6 th World Water Forum (International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea)	Workshop	Preliminary discussion on the outcomes of the Regional conference on preparation to the 6 th World Water Summit	EC IFAS, RHC EC IFAS jointly with SIC ICWC, SIC ICSD
33.	Platform for dialogue on the subject "Public monitoring of water supply projects in rural areas"	Workshop	Discussing the possibilities and ways of introduction of public monitoring in the water supply projects in rural areas in Kazakhstan	Public association «Angel» (Kazakhstan)

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34.	Chemical safety for Green Growth	Side event	Attracting attention to providing chemical safety for green growth	UNDP/GEF Project «Management and placement of PCBs in Kyrgyzstan»
35.	Development of environmental initiatives of young people in Central Asia	Workshop	Development of Youth position on "Green Growth"	Youth public association "Institute of Human Health" (Kazakhstan)
36.	UNECE Public-private roundtable on green economy: investing in green infrastructure	Round table/workshop	Discussing lessons from the three roundtables on green infrastructure investment with the aim to draw lessons for the Central Asian region, discuss associated policy reform, financing sources, building capacity and the main challenges for the region going forward	UNECE with partner organisations
37.	Green economy & Resource efficiency: achievements and way forward in the Pan European region (Resource and energy efficiency examples in the Pan European region)	Side-event with presentations and panel discussions	Demonstrating and sharing the Green economy achievements and experiences on the ground in the Pan European region	UNEP
