

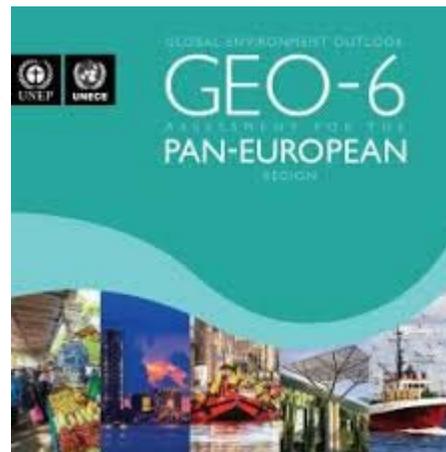
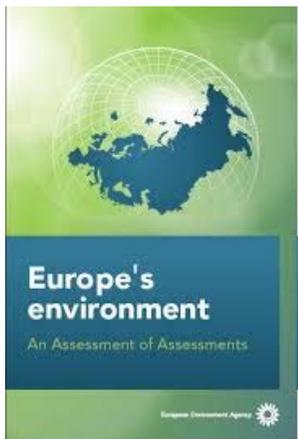
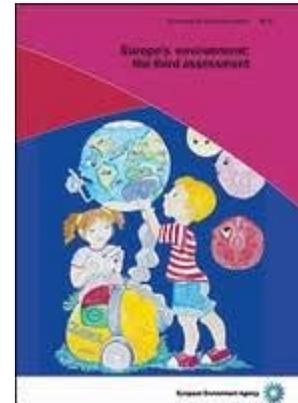
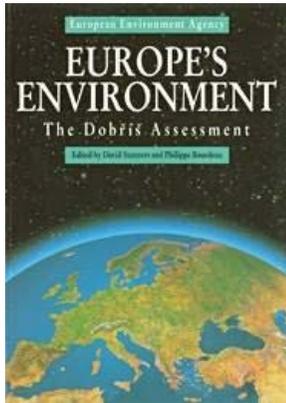


The next pan-European environmental assessment supported by SEIS and streamlining of regular state-of-the-environment reporting

20th Session of WGEMA, 3-4 September 2018

Mr. Matthew Billot, UN Environment (UNEP)

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);

Related processes

The EEA state and outlook report is published every five years and, among other things, feeds into the evaluation of progress achieved by the European Union countries in relation to the European Union Environmental Action Programmes and other common commitments.

The latest edition, *The European environment — state and outlook 2015* (SOER 2015), was published in March 2015 (ECE/CEP/2015/10, para. 27(a)).

The EEA SOER 2020 will be launched in 2019 and 2020: *The Integrated Assessment* will be issued in 2019, followed by a Synthesis stakeholder interaction; and the *Synthesis* report is based upon the key findings of 2019 the *Integrated Assessment* and the outcomes of the stakeholder interaction in 2020.

Related processes (cont.)

- The latest global assessment, GEO-6, is to be based on the findings of regional assessments of each of the six UNEP regions.
- The full GEO-6 assessment will be launched at the fourth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, being held from 11–15 March 2019.

Regarding a possible seventh Global Environment Outlook:

(a) The High-level Group, which helps guide the GEO process, has recommended an evaluation be conducted before any decision on a seventh GEO is made;

(b) UNEP has commissioned a medium-term evaluation of the GEO process by its independent evaluation office, which identified funding as a major challenge for the GEO process;

(c) Given that GEO-6 faced funding challenges, UNEP has recommended in several briefings that future Global Environment Outlooks be put on a more stable financial and structural footing.

- Therefore, it is not possible to determine at this time the schedule for the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook; this may prevent synchronization of the pan-European environmental assessment with the GEO cycle.
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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.

Process and timeline

Date	Event	Actions
September 2018	20 th session of the Working Group	Agree on a general approach and process
October 2018	15 th session of the Joint Task Force	Review the proposed general approach and process
January 2019	24 th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy	Review the proposed general approach and process
May 2019	21 st session of the Working Group	Refine the above and identify possible priority themes
October 2019	16 th session of the Joint Task Force	Further refine the general approach and process and develop possible priority themes
November 2019	25 th session of the Committee	Decide upon the general approach and process and up to two themes for the next conference

Process and timeline (cont.)

Date	Event	Actions	
Early 2020	1st meeting of the drafting group	To be determined	
Spring 2020	22nd session of the Working Group	To be determined	
Summer 2020	2nd meeting of the drafting group	To be determined	
	Autumn 2020	3rd meeting of the drafting group	To be determined
		17th session of the Joint Task Force	To be determined
		26th session of the Committee	To be determined
Early 2021	Special session of the Committee	Consideration of the draft pan-European environmental assessment	
	23rd session of the Working Group	To be determined	
2021	9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference	Consideration of the pan-European environmental assessment	

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.



UNECE



Thank you

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