



## NEW EU STRATEGY ON CENTRAL ASIA PLATFORM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER COOPERATION

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Steigenberger Wiltcher's Hotel  
71, Avenue Louise 1050 Brussels, Belgium

12-13 February 2020

### MEETING AGENDA

#### OBJECTIVES

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC) is the first gathering after the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-CA High Level Conference on Environment and Water Cooperation held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in January 2019, whose Summary of the Co-Chairs contains the priority lines to be addressed in the work of the Platform and its Working Group:

- Environmental Governance, Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production,
- Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation,
- Water Resources Management,
- Cross Cutting Issues.

In May 2019, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued the Joint Communication on a new EU Strategy on Central Asia entitled "The EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a stronger partnership". Adopted by the Council of the European Union on 17 June 2019, the Strategy defines 3 interconnected priorities on **Resilience, Prosperity and Regional Cooperation** and has specific objectives on "Enhancing Environmental, Climate and Water Resilience".

The activities of the EU-CA WGECC will take advantage of this renewed and strengthened framework, to move forward a sound EU-CA policy dialogue.

This 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-CA WGECC will present the general framework and focus mainly on Circular Economy for Sustainable Development.

The objectives of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGECC are to:

- Present the priorities of the new EU Strategy on Central Asia;
- Present the framework of priorities of the Platform on Environment and Water Cooperation and the activities of its WGECC;
- Take stock of policy developments at regional and bilateral level and provide update on progress in EU-CA regional cooperation in the areas of environment and climate change since the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-CA High Level Conference on Environment and Water Cooperation;
- Outline emerging environmental issues from the CA and EU perspectives;
- Introduce recent developments in EU climate and environmental policies, particularly focusing on the European Green Deal and the upcoming new EU Circular Economy Action Plan;
- Finalise and adopt the new Terms of Reference of the WGECC and the Coordination Committee Rules of Procedure;
- Discuss and adopt the Work Programme of the WGECC;
- Present and discuss the outcomes of the WECOOP2 project including the concrete activities carried out through the tailor-made support;
- Introduce the new phase of WECOOP and discuss its work plan.

#### BACKGROUND

The Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation was established at the EU-CA High Level Conference in Rome (Italy) in 2009. The Platform is a framework for the implementation of the EU-CA Cooperation in water and environment, based on the EU Strategy for Central Asia agreed with the CA countries. The priorities for the Platform were first agreed at the third EU-Central Asia High-Level Conference in Rome in 2009 and subsequently confirmed at the High-Level Conferences in Bishkek (2013), Milan (2015), and Tashkent (2019).



This project is implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with ELLE (Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment), ACTED, and Kommunal Kredit Public Consulting as the consortium partners.



The EU-CA WGECC assists in the identification of EU-CA regional cooperation priorities in environment and climate change and supports the Platform by strengthening policy dialogue and cooperation at the regional level and between EU and CA. Eight WGECC meetings took place since 2010. The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea has been chairing the Working Group since its establishment in 2009. New draft Terms of Reference have been introduced and discussed at the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-CA High Level Conference in January 2019, but the final adoption of this document was left for the up-coming 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGECC.

The EU renewed the project “European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation” (WECOOP) in October 2019. It is the third phase of the project that will run for three years.

The project aims to enhance environment, climate change and water policies at national levels in Central Asia through approximation to EU standards and to promote investments in relevant sectors with the aim of contributing to measurable reductions in man-made pollution, including CO<sub>2</sub> emission.

The project activities include support to the Platform and the WGECC. WECOOP supports the development, effectiveness and visibility of the Platform through regular high-level meetings and joint expert working groups or other ad-hoc events. The project team functions as the technical secretariat of the Platform and the WGECC and is responsible for practical organisation of the meetings.

<b>Day 1: Wednesday, 12 February 2020</b>	
<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Registration of participants</b>
<b>14:30 – 15:15</b>	<p><b>Opening of the meeting:</b> Meeting Chair: Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p> <p><b>Welcome addresses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H. E. Chingiz Aidarbekov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• H.E. Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia</li> <li>• Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director, Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> <li>• Ms Elina Bardram, Head of Unit, International Relations, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission</li> <li>• Mr Olzhas Agabekov, Director, Climate Policy and Green Technologies Department, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> </ul>
<b>15:15 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Adoption of the agenda and presentation of the policy framework</b> Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of “The EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership” launched in 2019 (Mr Boris Iarochevitch, Head of the Central Asia Division, EEAS)</li> <li>• Framework of priorities of the Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation and the activities of its WGECC (Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan);</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1: Taking stock – Update on progress since the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-CA High Level Conference and perspectives of future developments</b>	
Chair: Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission	
<b>15:30 – 16:15</b>	<p><b>Overview of the recent EU policy developments on environment and international priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview of the recent EU policy developments on climate action and international priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 min presentation by Ms Stine Rasmussen, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Ms Monika Zsigri, Policy Officer – Team Leader, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission</li> </ul>



**WECOOP**

Funded by the European Union  
EU – Central Asia Cooperation on  
Water – Environment – Climate Change



This project is implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with ELLE (Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment), ACTED, and Kommunal Kredit Public Consulting as the consortium partners.



	<p><b>Overview of the recent policy developments in the CA region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews in the countries of Central Asia – 8 min presentation by Mr Antoine Nunes, Environmental Performance Review Programme Manager, UNECE + 5 min feedback from recently reviewed Uzbekistan (2019) (Mr Tolegen Abdulgaziev, Head, Administration of Environmental Pollution Coordination and Monitoring, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan)</li> <li>• EUWI National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation: 8 min presentation by Mr Alisher Mamadzhanov, EUWI NPDs Regional Coordinator, UNECE</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>16:15 – 16:45</b>	<b>Coffee and group photo of the participants</b>
<b>16:45 – 18:15</b>	<p><b>Delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are invited to inform on recent and future developments in the areas of environmental governance, including solid waste management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Olzhas Agabekov, Director, Climate Policy and Green Technologies Department, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Ms Aizada Kiiazova, Lead Specialist, Ecological Strategy and Policy Department, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Mahmad Safarov, Deputy Director, Agency of Hydrometeorology, Committee for Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Magtymguly Akmyradov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Tolegen Abdulgaziev, Head, Administration of Environmental Pollution Coordination and Monitoring, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Ysmail Dairov, Executive Director, Regional Mountain Centre of Central Asia</li> <li>• 5 min presentation by Mr Arslan Berdiyev, NGO “Yashyl Shohle”, Turkmenistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussions and Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>19:30 – 22:00</b>	<b>Gala dinner at Steigenberger Wiltcher’s</b>

<b>Day 2: Thursday, 13 February 2020</b>	
<b>Session 2: Enhancing CA policies – recent developments in environmental policies and available tools to support environment, climate change and water policies in the CA region</b> Chair: Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan	
<b>09:00-10:30</b>	<p><b>EU action on circular economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 min presentation by Mr Luca Perez, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>A Europe that protects: Clean air for all</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 min presentation by Ms Susanne Lindahl, Expert, “Clean Air” Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>



	<p><b>Tools to enhance environment, climate change and water policies in Central Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development Goals and UNDP work on these in the region: 8 min presentation by Ms Barbara Pesce-Monteiro, Director, UN/UNDP Representation Office in Brussels</li> <li>• GCF's Role in Supporting Climate Change Investments for Central Asia: 8 min presentation by Mr Urvaksh D. Patel, Regional Manager, Division of Country Programming, Green Climate Fund</li> <li>• UNECE activities to support environmental policies in Central Asia: 8 min presentation by Ms Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE</li> <li>• OSCE environmental activities in Central Asia: 8 min presentation by Mr Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator / Head, Environmental Activities, Office of the Coordinator of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break. Press point.</b>
<p><b>Session 2 continued</b> Chair: Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</p>	
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<p><b>Tools to enhance environment, climate change and water policies in Central Asia – continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAWEP: 8 min presentation by Mr John Bryant Collier, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank</li> <li>• NEXUS: 8 min presentation by Mr Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia</li> <li>• SWITCH Asia/Central Asia: 8 min presentation by Ms Alessandra Lepore, International Aid / Cooperation Officer, SWITCH Asia Programme, Directorate for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission</li> <li>• WECOOP: 8 min presentation by Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECOOP Team Leader</li> <li>• New initiative “Green Central Asia”: 8 min presentation by Ms Mareike Well, Desk Officer Climate and Environmental Policy, Federal Foreign Office, Germany</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback from CA countries</b></p>
<p><b>Session 3: Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the WGECC and the Rules of Procedure for the Coordination Committee</b> Chair: Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert – Sogesid spa Technical Assistance Unit, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p>	
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Introduction of the final draft Terms of Reference of the WGECC and the Rules of Procedure for the Coordination Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 min presentation by Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and adoption of the documents</b></p>
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<p><b>Session 4: Next steps and future developments</b> Chair: Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</p>	
<b>14:30 – 16:15</b>	<p><b>Proposed Work Programme of the WGECC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 min introduction by Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion</b></p> <p><b>Adoption of the Work Programme</b></p> <p><b>WECOOP Work plan for 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 min presentation by Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECOOP Team Leader</li> </ul>



Funded by the European Union

**WECOOP**

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on Water – Environment – Climate Change



This project is implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with ELLE (Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment), ACTED, and Kommunalcredit Public Consulting as the consortium partners.



	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>16:15 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Summary of the outcomes and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Mr Luca Perez, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> <li>• Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</li> </ul> <p><b>Closure of the Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Chair: Mr Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Division, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy</li> </ul>

*Dear Participants!*

*WECOOP project is pleased to inform that the 9th meeting of the EU–Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change is organized and held in line with the sustainability principles. In particular, we have refrained from plastic and aluminium packaging by providing glass instead of plastic bottles, used digital event banners instead of printed ones where possible, and offered vegetarian options among other meals. We kindly ask the attendees to return the name badges pockets upon the completion of the event to us, so we could reuse them in our future events. By doing this, we are contributing to the environmental sustainability.*

*WECOOP project is calling everyone to do a bit for the environment and encourage others to protect our planet!*



Funded by the European Union

**WECOOP**

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on  
Water – Environment – Climate Change



This project is implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with ELLE (Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Environment), ACTED, and Kommunal Kredit Public Consulting as the consortium partners.