

The EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Terms of Reference

6th HLC on Environment and Water Cooperation

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EU-CA Platform on Environment and Water

- Environmental integration and environmental governance

Environmental integration is a key to good governance in tackling environmental and resource challenges. There is a need to strengthen cooperation between EU and CA in taking steps to put environmental integration into practice, including through implementation of all relevant legally binding instruments.

- Joining forces to combat climate change and minimise its impact

The EU will assist CA countries in policy making and implementation of measures related to climate change, including for the accession to relevant multilateral instruments, implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and its mechanisms, emissions trading and clean technologies.

- Water issues

The EU is ready to use its cooperation capabilities to facilitate the implementation of best practices, the availability of drinking water and sanitation as well as the increase in the efficiency of water usage in energy and agriculture, while safeguarding the ecological balance in the region.

The EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC)

- The Working Group was established by the Decision of the **Third High Level Conference in Rome** on November 6, 2009.
- **The EU-CA WG EGCC goal** is to help in strengthening policy cooperation at regional level and to provide guidance on cooperation activities between EU and CA (taking advantage from the participation of other donors, IFIs, international organizations, regional institutions, and representatives of civil society).

Tasks of the WG

- The WG is mandated to **facilitate the implementation** of the EU – CA Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation, taking concrete steps to strengthen policy dialogue and cooperation at regional level and to provide guidance on cooperation activities between EU and CA.
- The **mandate of the WG** will last accordingly to the period covered by the EU Central Asia Strategy.

Terms of Reference of the WG

- First adopted in 2010 (**1st meeting** of the WG in Brussels)
- **Many changes** since then (Rio+20, Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030, SDGs)
- Need to improve governance (introduce **co-chairmanship**, assure **continuity** of the work done)
- Need to include issues related to **water**
- **Need to update** the ToR, also in view of the current situation

Proposed main amendments

1. **WG to be co-chaired** by a representative of the EU, by Italy (lead country), and by a CA country
2. To introduce elements in relation to *Paris Agreement*
3. Extension of the WG mandate, including tasks related to integrated **water** management (incl. **National Policy Dialogues**)
4. Establishment of a **Steering Committee** composed of:
 1. representatives from the European Commission, the European External Action Service and Italy;
 2. a representative of the EU DEL Astana;
 3. 1 representative from each CA country;
 4. a representative of civil society.