



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

The 2nd meeting of the Coordination Committee
of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment
and Climate Change
10th February 2021 - online

The 10th meeting of the WGECC

June 2021 - focus and topics for the discussion

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2020 Coordination Committee (WGCC) : Addressing a green recovery

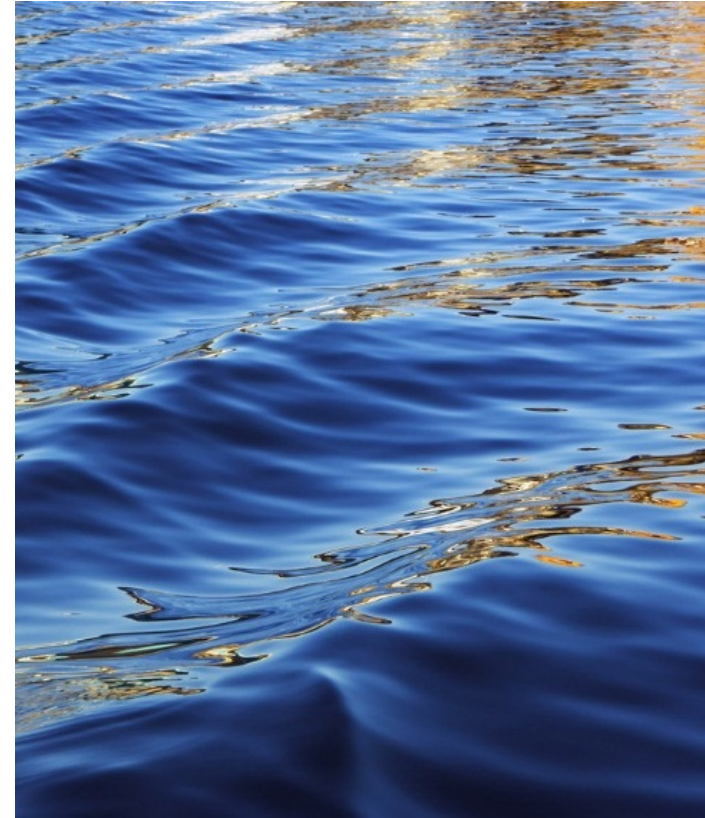
- Economic, social and environmental recovery,
- Economic and social impacts of climate change,
- Green financing and investments,
- Environmental governance,
- BAT and technology for environmental protection.



1. *Biological diversity*
2. *Climate change*
3. *Zero Pollution ambition for air, water, and soil: decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution*
4. *Toolbox for sustainable recovery: investments in cleaner air and renewable energy*



1- Biological diversity



1.1 - EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- The **European Union** has launched its **new strategy on Biodiversity for 2030** with a focus on fixing our broken **relationship with nature** and embarking on a **path to recovery for the benefit of the people, the climate and the planet**.
- In the **post-COVID** context, the Biodiversity Strategy aims to **build our societies' resilience** to future threats such as climate change impacts, forest fires, food insecurity or disease outbreaks, including by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.
- As a **core part of the European Green Deal**, the Biodiversity Strategy will also **support a green recovery following the pandemic**.



Specific session to discuss the EU 2030 Strategy and opportunities for CA (presentation from the EU, an expert overview of the state of play in the CA Countries, Q&A, etc.)

1.2 - Biodiversity for health and green recovery

- In this session the focus will be how to address the green recovery in Central Asia also through biodiversity.
- **WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19** provides a list of prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19
- Importance of maintaining a **healthy balance in the human environment**: the way we shape the environment around us determines the level of wellbeing it can provide to human lives.
- **Cities, rural areas, urban-rural linkages, green infrastructures for healthy cities, respect for ecological corridors**, are important pillars of human health.
- **The recommendations on biodiversity and human health contained in the recent EPRs** conducted by **UNECE** for some CA Countries will also be presented and discussed.



Specific session to discuss the connections between biodiversity and human health in Central Asia, presentations from WHO, UNECE EPR, Q&A

1.3 - Common position for COP15 CBD

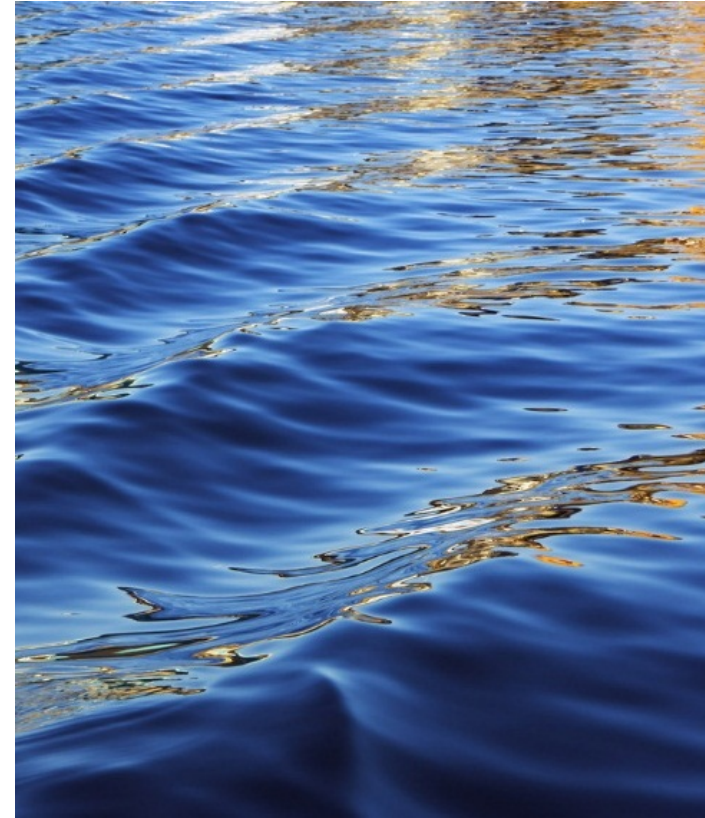
- The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is currently scheduled for the second quarter of 2021 - Kunming, China
- *CA Countries may be interested in discussing some common grounds with the EU before the COP15 meeting: what about?*



Round table to discuss common grounds for CBS COP 15



2- Climate change



2.1. EU 2030 Climate Target Plan and European Climate Law

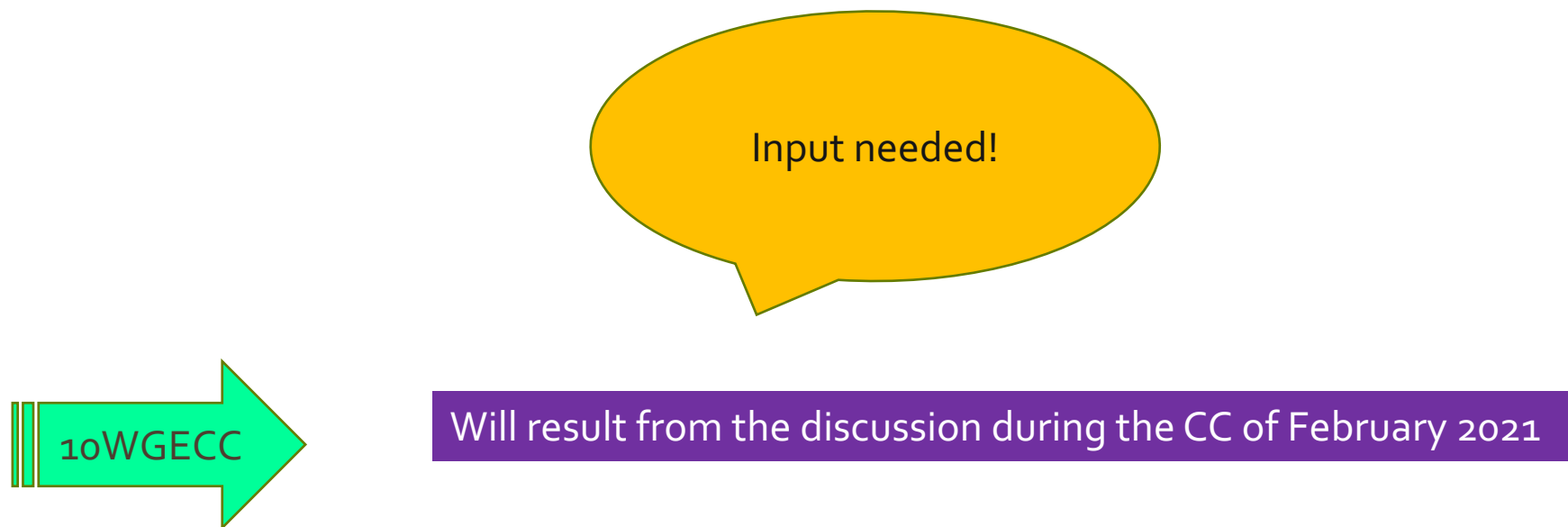
- The European Commission presented on 17 September 2020 its plan to **reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels** .
- This level of ambition for the next decade will put the EU on a balanced pathway to reaching **climate neutrality by 2050**.
- The new target is based on a **comprehensive Impact Assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts**. The Assessment demonstrates that this course of action is realistic and feasible.
- This raised ambition also underlines the EU's continued global leadership, ahead of the next UN climate conference (COP26).



Session dedicated to the discussion on the recent EU initiatives on climate change and possible reflections for CA Countries (presentations, discussions, Q&A), plus focus on those additional aspects issued from the discussion

2.2- Social aspects of climate change

- *This topic, raised during the previous Coordination Committee, would need **further elaboration and input from CA Countries**, in order to tailor its scope to the actual needs of the Region.*
- *Input requested from CA delegates during the discussion of the February 2021 Coordination Committee.*



2.3- ICAT toolbox

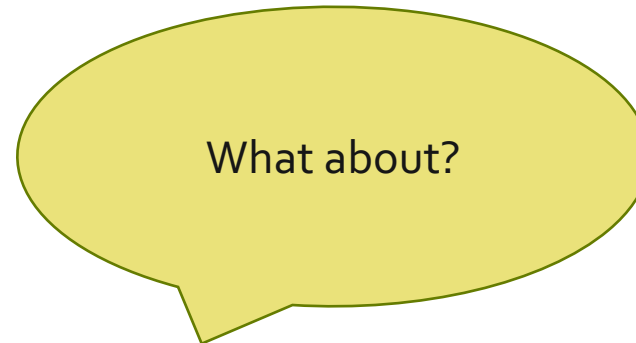
- ICAT tools are very useful for **supporting countries in the elaboration of sound and efficient policies, strategies, projects**, and can help countries in demonstrating their **transparency** (improving their **attractiveness for international funds**).
- The Initiative is also working with developing countries to **strengthen capacity to assess climate actions (in the context of their NDCs) and report their progress in line with the Paris Agreement**, based on individual country needs.
- The Initiative supports in-country capacity development programmes through **training modules on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of policies and actions**, and knowledge sharing of good practice and lessons learned.



Session dedicated to the opportunities for CA Countries for the application of ICAT tools (presentations, discussions, Q&A)

2.4- Common position for COP26 UNFCCC

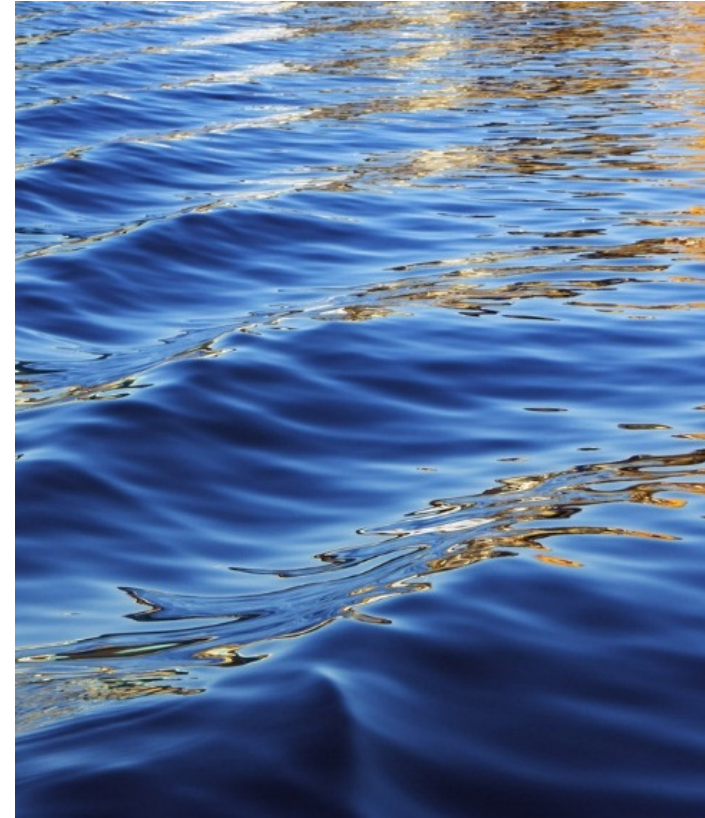
- CA Countries may be interested in discussing some common ground with the EU, in view of the COP26 meeting (now it is scheduled for November 2021): *what about?*



Round table to discuss/present a possible common position at COP26



3- Zero Pollution ambition for air,
water, and soil: decoupling
economic growth from the increase
of pollution



3.1- Zero-Pollution ambition for air, water, and soil: decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution

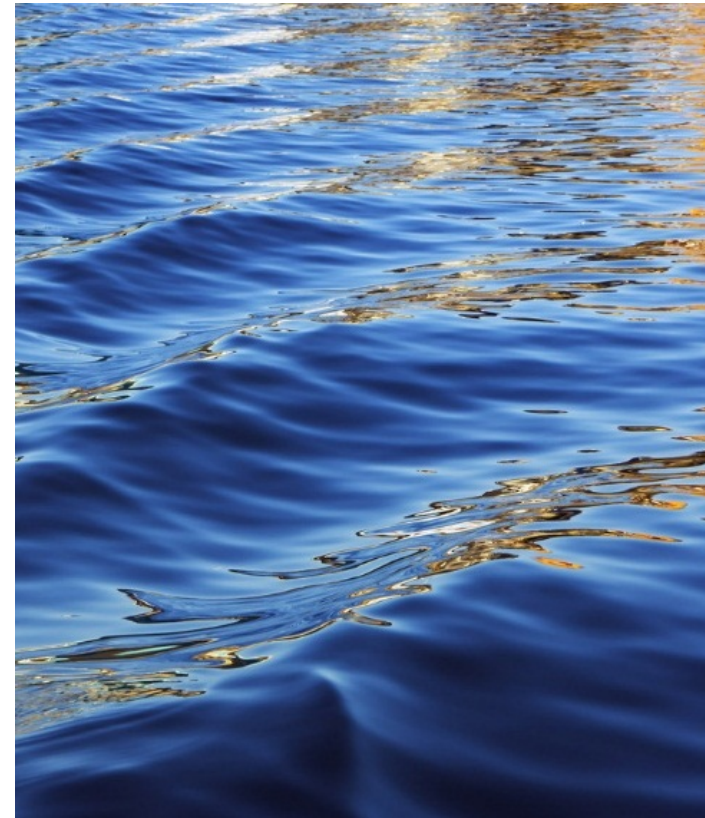
- In 2021, the European Commission will adopt the action plan “**Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil – building a Healthier Planet for Healthier People**”. The Action Plan will be coordinated with other existing and upcoming Commission initiatives that address related challenges.
- Aims at **decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution, strengthening the inter-linkages between environmental protection, sustainable development, and people’s well-being, in line with United Nations driven efforts.**
- The ZPA has the potential to contribute to the transition to a clean and circular economy, create ample green business opportunities, including in short term, **enhancing the recovery from the COVID 19 economic crisis.**



Session dedicated to the Zero Pollution action plan in the EU and opportunities for CA Countries for decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution (presentations, discussions, Q&A)



4- Toolbox for sustainable recovery: investments in cleaner air and renewable energy



4.1- Toolbox for sustainable recovery: investments in cleaner air and renewable energy

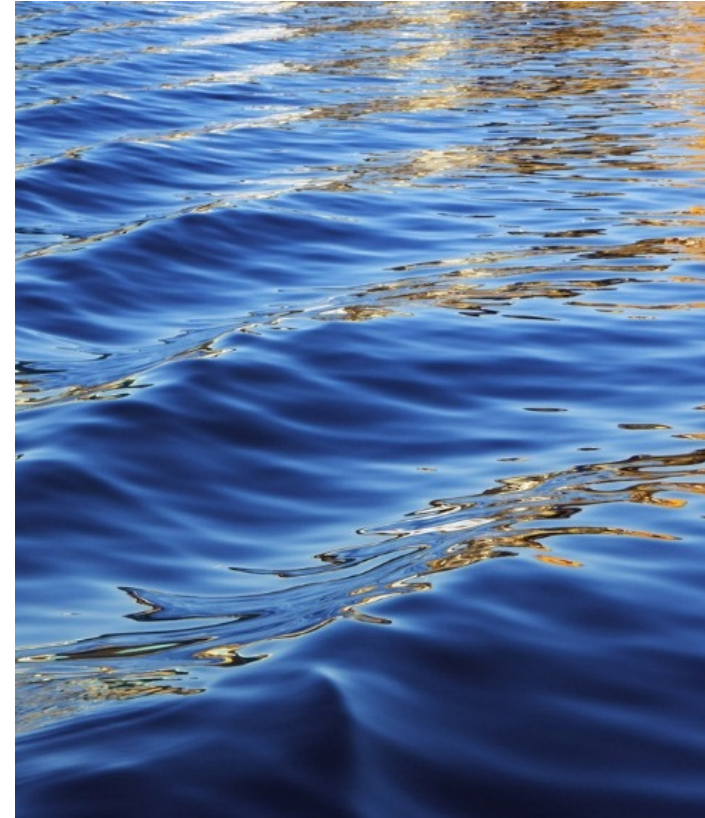
- One session at the 10th WGECC will be dedicated to updates on concrete opportunities for investments in CA in the fields of cleaner air and renewable energy.
- The session will be aimed at **facilitating the connections between CA Countries and IFIs** and will support the definition of the priorities to be addressed in a more specific **clinic workshop to be held in the second half of 2021**.



General discussion on investment opportunities in CA (relevant IFIs and donors) introducing the specific clinic workshop to be held in the second half of 2021



10 WGECC – Topics for a tentative agenda



10WGECC – thematic sessions



1. *Biological diversity*

1. *The EU 2030 Strategy and opportunities for CA (presentation from the EU, an expert overview of the state of play in the CA Countries, Q&A, etc.)*
2. *Connections between biodiversity and human health in Central Asia, presentations from WHO, UNECE EPR, Q&A*
3. *Round table to discuss common grounds for CBS COP 15*

2. *Climate change*

1. *The recent EU initiatives on climate change and possible reflections for CA Countries (presentations, discussions, Q&A), plus focus on those additional aspects issued from the discussion*
2. *Social aspects of climate change (still there? → Input needed)*
3. *Opportunities for CA Countries for the application of ICAT tools (presentations, discussions, Q&A)*
4. *Round table to discuss/present a possible common position at COP26*

3. *Zero Pollution ambition for air, water, and soil: decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution*

1. *Zero Pollution action plan in the EU and opportunities for CA Countries for decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution (presentations, discussions, Q&A)*

4. *Toolbox for sustainable recovery: investments in cleaner air and renewable energy*

1. *General discussion on investment opportunities in CA (relevant IFIs and donors) introducing the specific clinic workshop to be held in the second half of 2021*

10WGECC - format and tentative dates





Thank you for your
attention!

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