



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

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

*“Green Recovery: new opportunities for cooperation”*

Online, 4-5 October 2021

### MEETING AGENDA

#### OBJECTIVES

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Union – Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC) is the first gathering after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly changed both economy and environment worldwide, so it will address new opportunities for cooperation to ensure a green recovery. Considering the situation both in the European Union (EU) and in Central Asia (CA), the discussion at the meeting will be built around the following four items:

- Biological diversity;
- Climate change;
- Decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution;
- Toolbox for sustainable recovery.

The objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGECC are to:

- Take stock of policy developments at regional and bilateral levels and provide update on the progress in EU-CA regional cooperation in the areas of environment and climate change since the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of WGECC in Brussels in February 2020;
- Outline emerging environmental issues from CA and EU perspectives;
- Introduce recent developments in EU climate and environmental policies, particularly focusing on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, EU 2030 Climate target plan and European Climate Law, Zero Pollution Action Plan, and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism;
- Discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on biodiversity and crucial place of biodiversity in the green recovery;
- Consider the Analytical Review on the priorities for the conservation of biodiversity in Central Asia;
- Consider investments in cleaner air and renewable energy as elements of a toolbox for sustainable recovery;
- Present and discuss the progress of the WECOOP project including the concrete activities carried out through the tailor-made support and its plans for the third year.



## BACKGROUND

The WGECC was formed to support the Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation 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 the fields of water and environment, based on the EU Strategy on 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).

The WGECC assists in the identification of EU-CA regional cooperation priorities on environment and climate change and supports the Platform by strengthening policy dialogue and cooperation at the regional level and between the EU and CA countries. Nine WGECC meetings have been held since 2010. The European Union and the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition (IMET) have been co-chairing the WGECC since its establishment in 2009. New Terms of Reference were adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGECC; at the same meeting the Coordination Committee of the WGECC was established. The Coordination Committee meets regularly in order to assure the continuity of the process and to facilitate the implementation of the work plan 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 until October 2022.

The project aims to enhance environment, climate change and water policies at national level in the countries of 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> emissions.

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: Monday, 4 October 2021</b>	
<b>9:00 – 9:05 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>12:00 – 12:05 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>13:00 – 13:05 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b>	<b>Technical Remarks</b> (WECOOP Project team)
<b>9:05 – 9:25 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>12:05 – 12:25 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>13:05 – 13:25</b>	<b>Introduction of the participants</b> ( <i>tour de table</i> ) Moderator: Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECOOP Team Leader



# WECOOP

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



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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.



<b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b>	
<b>Opening of the meeting</b> Meeting Co-chairs: Mr Akhmetzhan Primkulov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Desk Officer, Unit ENV F2 – Bilateral & Regional Environmental Cooperation, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission Mr Angiolo Martinelli, Director of International Environmental Cooperation, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Italy	
<b>9:25 – 9:40 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>12:25 – 12:40 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>13:25 – 13:40 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b>	<b>Welcome addresses by</b>  H.E. Ambassador Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative for Central Asia  Mr Akhmetzhan Primkulov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan  Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director, Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission  Mr Oliviero Montanaro, Director General, Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition
<b>9:40 – 9:45 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>12:40 – 12:45 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>13:40 – 13:45 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda</b> Mr Angiolo Martinelli, Director of International Environmental Cooperation, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Italy  <b>Group photo (WECOOP Project team)</b>
<b>9:45 – 10:30 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>12:45 – 13:30 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>13:45 – 14:30 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b>	<b>Keynote speech: Opportunities and challenges for a green recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director, Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission (15 min)</li> </ul> <b>The point of view of Central Asia: possible strategies for a green recovery in CA and opportunities for cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Ruslan Muratov, Senior Manager, Green Technologies Department, International Center for Green Technologies and Investment Projects, Republic of Kazakhstan (5 min)</li> <li>Ms Veronika Isaeva, Head of Administration of Industrial Ecology, State Committee on Environment and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic (5 min)</li> <li>Mr Sangin Samiev, Head of the Environmental Monitoring Department of the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Republic of Tajikistan (5 min)</li> <li>Mr Magtymguly Akmyradov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (5 min)</li> <li>Mr Abdurashid Sadikov, Head of Main Department on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan (5 min)</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1: Taking stock – Update on progress since the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGECC and prospects for future developments</b> Moderator: Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan	
<b>10:30 - 11:20 (Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>13:30 – 14:20 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b>	<b>Overview of the recent EU policy developments on environment, climate action and international priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presentation Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Desk Officer, Unit ENV F2 – Bilateral &amp; Regional Environmental Cooperation, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission (7 min)</li> <li>presentation by Ms Stine Rasmussen, Policy Officer of Unit CLIMA A1, Directorate-</li> </ul>





<p><b>14:30 – 15:20</b> <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p>General for Climate Action, European Commission (7 min)</p> <p><b>Overview of the recent developments in the CA region and implementation of the Work Programme of the WGECC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Work plan of WECOOP: presentation by Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECOOP Team Leader (7 min)</li> <li>• EUWI National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation: presentation by Mr Alexander Belokurov, UNECE (7 min)</li> <li>• The Central Asian perspective: Possible Strategies and Opportunities for Green Recovery in Central Asia: presentation by Mr Sulton Rahimzoda, Chairman of EC IFAS (7 min)</li> <li>• SWITCH-Asia policy advice and grant projects in Central Asia: presentation by Ms Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader of the SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility (7 min)</li> <li>• The OSCE's work on environment and security in Central Asia, Mr Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-Ordinator/Head, Environmental Activities OSCE (7 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>11:20 – 11:30</b> <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>14:20 – 14:30</b> <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>15:20 – 15:30</b> <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>10 minutes break</b></p>
<p><b>11:30 – 12:20</b> <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>14:30 – 15:20</b> <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>15:30 – 16:20</b> <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>Delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan inform on recent and future developments in the environmental governance and climate change mitigation and adaptation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Olzhas Agabekov, Director, Climate Policy and Green Technologies Department, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (5 min)</li> <li>• Ms Veronika Isaeva, Head of Administration of Industrial Ecology, State Committee on Environment and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic (5 min)</li> <li>• Mr Sangin Samiev, Head of the Environmental Monitoring Department of the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Republic of Tajikistan (5 min)</li> <li>• Mr Serdar Eyeberenov, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan (5 min)</li> <li>• Mr Jakhongir Talipov, Head of Department, International Cooperation and Projects, State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>Session 2: Biological diversity</b> Moderator: Mr Andrzej Januszewski, DG ENV</p>	
<p><b>12:20 – 13:55</b> <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> <b>15:20 – 16:55</b> <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> <b>16:20 – 17:55</b> <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• presentation by Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Desk Officer, Unit ENV F2 - Bilateral &amp; Regional Environmental Cooperation, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on biodiversity and biodiversity for green recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• presentation by Thierry Lucas, Programme Management Officer on Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Current state of biodiversity in Central Asia</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger than Tigers study: presentation by Sorosh Poya Faryabi, the Conservation and Science Manager of Wildlife Conservation Society, Afghanistan (10 min)</li> <li>• UNECE EPR – Focus on biodiversity in Central Asia: presentation by Ms Natalia Golovko, UNECE EPR team (10 min)</li> <li>• Analytical Overview on the priorities for the conservation of biodiversity in Central Asia: presentation by Ms Anna Kirilenko, WECCOOP (10 min)</li> <li>• Biodiversity map demo tool for CA: presentation by Mr Gatis Eriņš, WECCOOP (8 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
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**Day 2: Tuesday, 5 October 2021**

**Summary of Day 1**

Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, International Cooperation, Sogesid Spa–Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition, and Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

**Session 3: Climate change: policies and implementation**

Moderator: Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, International Cooperation, Sogesid Spa–Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition

<p><b>9:00 – 10:40 (Brussels, Rome)</b>  <b>12:00 – 13:40 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b>  <b>13:00 – 14:40 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p>EU 2030 Climate target plan and European Climate Law: presentation by Mr Niels Schuster, Coordinator for inter-institutional Relations - Climate law and green deal legislation, Unit CLIMA DG 01, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission (10 min)</p> <p>UNECE EPR recommendations as an opportunity to advance in climate action and agenda 2030: presentation by Ms Natalia Golovko, UNECE EPR team (7 min)</p> <p>ICAT Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub in Central Asia: opportunities and perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICAT's offer of support to the countries of Central Asia: presentation by Dr Henning Wuester, Director, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) (7 min)</li> <li>• Introduction of the Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (ReCATH) in Central Asia by Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director, CAREC (7 min)</li> </ul> <p>Climate adaptation and flood prevention financing: case studies from Eastern Europe and Asia: presentation by Mr Marco Beroš, European Investment Bank (7 min)</p> <p>Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Water Pillar: presentation by Mr Kazuhiro Yoshida &amp; Mr Malte Maass, Asian Development Bank (7 min)</p> <p>Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM): presentation by Mr Pasquale De Micco, Economic and legal analysis of indirect taxation, Sector TAXUD C2.001, Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, European Commission (7 min)</p> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
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<p><b>10:40 – 10:50 (Brussels, Rome)</b>  <b>13:40 – 13:50 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b>  <b>14:40 – 14:50 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>10 minutes break</b></p>
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**Session 4: Zero Pollution ambition for air, water and soil**  
Moderator: Ms Snejana Popova, Project Officer, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan

<b>10:50 – 11:50</b>	<b>Decoupling economic growth from the increase of pollution</b>
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<p><b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> 13:50 – 14:50 <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> 14:50 – 15:50 <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Zero Pollution Action Plan: presentation by Mr Michael Klinkenberg, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission (10 min)</li> <li>• Best available techniques evolutionary development in the Republic of Kazakhstan: from the first steps to the Central Asian BAT Bureau: presentation by Ms Anastasiya Atyaksheva, International green technologies and investment projects center, Republic of Kazakhstan (10 min)</li> <li>• Carbon capture, utilization and storage: presentation by Dr Vladislav Bizek, Key Expert, WECCOOP Project (7 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback from CA countries</b></p> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p>11:50 – 12:00 <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> 14:50 – 15:00 <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> 15:50 – 16:00 <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>10 minutes break</b></p>
<p><b>Session 5: Next steps and future developments</b> Moderator: Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</p>	
<p>12:00 – 12:40 <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> 15:00 – 15:40 <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> 16:00 – 16:40 <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed activities of the WGECC in 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction by Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>WECCOOP Work plan for 2021-2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• presentation by Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECCOOP Team Leader (10 min)</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion and Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p>12:40 – 13:00 <b>(Brussels, Rome)</b> 15:40 – 16:00 <b>(Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent)</b> 16:40 – 17:00 <b>(Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of the outcomes and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, International Cooperation, Sogesid Spa–Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition</li> <li>• Mr Andrzej Januszewski, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission</li> <li>• Ms Ainur Kopbaeva, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> </ul>