
The EU–Central Asia Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation



Seventh EU–Central Asia High-Level Conference

Rome, Italy, 22-24 February 2023

Agenda

The conference will take place at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Piazzale della Farnesina 1, Rome, on 23-24 February 2023.

The meeting of the WGECC Coordination Committee (by invitation only) will take place in room “Flaminia” of River Chateau Hotel, Via Flaminia, 520, Rome, on 22 February 2023.

Side events will take place in room “Centurion” of River Chateau Hotel, Via Flaminia, 520, Rome, on 22 February 2023.

Objectives of the High-Level Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To present the results of the activities of the EU-CA Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation and its Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC) since January 2019;• To identify priority areas for the EU-CA Platform for 2023-2025;• To discuss and agree on practical steps for enhancing policy dialogue and capacity development on environment, climate change and water in Central Asia.

Wednesday 22 February – Pre-conference session (River Chateau Hotel, Rome)
<p>10:00-17:00 Meeting of the WGECC Coordination Committee (CC)¹ to finalise the Outcome Document, discuss priority areas for the Platform for 2023-2025 and consider any other documents to be agreed upon during the Conference. The CC will identify one or more speakers who will report during Sessions 1 and 6.</p> <p><i>The attendance of this meeting is by invitation only.</i> <i>The meeting will take place in room “Flaminia”.</i> <i>Coffee breaks 11:15-11:30 and 15:30-15:45; lunch 13:00-14:00</i></p>
<p><i>Side events open to registered participants:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 9:30-12:00 Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment2. 12:00-13:00 ICAT Regional Hub Central Asia <p><i>Parallel events, organised by CAREC, will take place at the meeting room “Centurion”</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. 14:00-17:00 UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews in Central Asia <p><i>Parallel event, organised by UNECE, will take place in the meeting room “Centurion”</i></p>

¹ <https://wecoop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WGCC-RoP-bilingual-final-130220.pdf>

Thursday 23 February – Conference Day 1 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome)	
9:30 – 10:20	Registration of participants, welcome coffee
10:20 – 10:30	Group photo
High-level Segment	
Co-chairs: Ms Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Mr Edmondo Cirielli, MP, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy	
10:30 -11:00	<p>Opening of the Conference</p> <p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Edmondo Cirielli, MP, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy • Ms Vannia Gava, MP, Vice-Minister for the Environment and Energy Security, Italy • Ms Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia • Mr Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, representing the host country of the Sixth EU–CA High-Level Conference.
11:00-13:00	<p>Session 1: Environment, Water and Climate Change in Central Asia</p> <p>Chair: Mr Edmondo Cirielli, MP, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy</p> <p><i>In this session, the EU and CA Delegations will present their developments and results since the last High-Level Conference in 2019 and discuss the results of the activities of the EU-CA Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation and its Working Group on Environment and Climate Change since 2019. High-level participants will adopt the outcome document, containing the priorities for the next cycle of the Platform.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote speech – Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism, Directorate General for the Environment, European Commission (20 min) • Heads of Delegations from Central Asia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr Nurken Sharbiyev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (8 min) ○ Mr Aibek Moldogaziev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic (8 min) ○ Mr Muzaffar Mirzozoda, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan (8 min) ○ Mr Allanur Altyyev, Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Turkmenistan (8 min) ○ Mr Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (8 min) <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Outcome Document of the 2023 Conference – Ms Federica Fricano, Director for European Environmental Affairs,

	<p>Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security (20 min)</p> <p>Endorsement of the Outcome Document by acclamation</p> <p><i>Guiding questions: What are countries' main actions and challenges in implementing the Conclusions adopted at the High-Level Conference on Environment and Water in 2019? What are the other emerging topics of interest for the Region?</i></p>
13:00-14:30	<p>Press point</p> <p>Lunch</p>
14:30-15:45	<p>Session 1: continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Ms Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia • Mr Sulton Rahimzoda, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (8 min) • Mr Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE (8 min) • Mr Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-Ordinator/Head, Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (8 min) • Mr Batyr Mammedov, Head of Secretariat, Interstate commission for sustainable development (ICSD) (8 min) • Mr Umar Nazarov, Head of Secretariat, Interstate Coordinating Water Management Commission of Central Asia (ICWC) (8 min) • Mr Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (8 min) <p>Q&A Discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions: What are the relevant EU and international initiatives for Central Asia? How can Central Asia Region accelerate the green transition and achieve sustainability objectives?</i></p>
15:45-16:15	Coffee break
16:15-17:00	<p>Session 2: Global Gateway Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia</p> <p>Chair: Mr Enrico Pavone, Coordinator for Digital and Connectivity in the EU, Directorate General for Europe and International Trade Policy, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sarah Rinaldi, Head of Unit for Middle East and Central Asia, DG INTPA (10 min) • Ms Karin Marmsoler, Policy Advisor Water Diplomacy, Federal Foreign Office, Germany (5 min) • Mr David Tyler, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (5 min) • Mr Lionel Rapaille, Director, European Investment Bank, recorded message (5 min) <p>Q&A</p>

	<p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of the new Global Gateway Initiative: high-level perspective and focus on specific actions</i></p>
17:00-17:45	<p>Session 3: with NGO / CSOs representatives: The view from civil society Chair: Mr Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nurlan Kapenov, Chairman of the Board, Qazaq Green Association, Kazakhstan (6 min) • Mr Vladimir Korotenko, Chairman, Ecological movement “BIOM”, Kyrgyz Republic (6 min) • Ms Anisa Abibulloeva, Board member, Environmental Public NGO “Little Earth”, Tajikistan (6 min) • Mr Merdan Arazmedov, Nature Protection Society of Turkmenistan (6 min) • Ms Saida Mustafaeva, Senior coordinator for civil society affairs, Nationwide movement “Yuksalish”, Uzbekistan (6 min) <p><i>Guiding question: What are the main challenges and opportunities for the Central Asia Region to accelerate the green transition and achieve sustainability objectives from the perspective of civil society?</i></p>
17:45-18:00	<p>Closing remarks of the High-Level Segment Co-chairs: Ms Terhi Hakala, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Mr Ludovico Serra, Head of Unit for Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
19:00-21:00	Reception

Friday 24 February – Conference Day 2 (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome)	
Co-chairs: Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit, Regional & Bilateral Environmental Cooperation, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission Ms Roberta Ronzitti, Director International Cooperation, Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security	
9:00-10:30	<p>Session 4: EU MS perspectives, EU and multilateral initiatives in Central Asia Chair: Ms Sarah Rinaldi, Head of Unit for Middle East and Central Asia, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ludovico Serra, Head of Unit for Russia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <i>“Italy-Central Asia 1+5” initiative of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (10 min)</i> • Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Head of Division for Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa, and Middle East, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany, <i>Nexus Climate/Energy/Water/Agriculture and Sustainable Infrastructure (10 min)</i> • Ms Mari Annukka Lipponen, Chief Specialist on Water Resources Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland (10 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Benoît Jourdan, Area Manager for Central Asia and Asia, BRGM, France, <i>Groundwater management and climate change in Central Asia: a French initiative project</i> (10 min) • Ms Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (10 min) • Mr Matthieu Le Blan, Senior Partnerships Advisor for Central Asia, UNOPS, <i>ICAT – Initiative for Climate Action Transparency, The regional Hub for Central Asia</i> (10 min) <p>Q&A</p>
<p>10:30-11:00 Coffee Break</p>	
<p>Session 5: International Institutions and bilateral donors: opportunities and perspectives for regional activities and green investments in Central Asia</p>	
<p>11:00-13:00</p>	<p>Chair: Ms Alessandra Fianza, Senior Expert, Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Federica Fricano, Director for European Environmental Affairs, Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security, <i>Opportunities for the Paris Agreement’s art. 6 cooperative approaches</i> (8 min) • Ms Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, <i>Regional approaches for EPRs</i> (8 min) • Ms Aidai Kurmanova, Head of Central Asia Office, UNEP, <i>Focus of UNEP on green economy and green investment</i> (8 min) • Mr Matthew Griffiths, Senior Programme Manager, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, <i>OECD activities for supporting green economy transition in Central Asia</i> (8 min) • Ms Tatiana Proskuryakova, Regional Director for Central Asia, World Bank, <i>Supporting regional cooperation & integration on water & energy in Central Asia</i> (8 min) • Ms Caroline Milow, Programme Manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, <i>Green Central Asia initiative</i> (8 min) • Ms Sandra Kassab, Deputy Director – Eastern Europe, Middle East, Asia, French Development Agency, (8 min) • Mr Simon Zbinden, Head of Section Water, Federal Office of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), <i>Switzerland’s renewed long-term commitment for Central Asia</i> (8 min) <p><i>Perspectives: Focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy, UNECE, <i>UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report 2022: a focus on Central Asia</i> (8 min) • Ms Annalidia Pansini, Senior Expert, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security, <i>A case study: Digital Demand-Driven Electricity Networks (3DEN) project</i> (8 min) <p>Q&A</p> <p>Discussion</p>

	Guiding question: <i>What are the main opportunities and challenges for implementing sustainable regional activities and green investments for the coming years in Central Asia? What framework conditions should be improved to facilitate international cooperation and attract more investments for a green transition? What are the connections between sustainable energy, energy networks, energy efficiency and climate action?</i>
13:00-14:30	Lunch
Session 6: Further development of the EU-CA Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation	
14:30-15:30	<p>Chair: Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission</p> <p><i>In this session, the WGECC Coordination Committee will illustrate the agreed priority areas for further EU-CA cooperation under the Platform for 2023-2025 and planning for future action. Also, delegates will discuss the way forward for 2023 and beyond:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Objectives, time and place of the next WGECC meeting</i> • <i>Objectives, time and place of the next HLC</i> <p>Interventions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Valts Vilnītis, WECCOOP Team – <i>short summary of the activities carried on since the last HLC</i> (15 min) • Ms Tamara Kutonova, UNECE – <i>EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on water</i> (10 min) • Central Asian designated delegate from the Coordination Committee – <i>Report on the discussed priorities</i> (10 min) • Ms Isabel Uriz Hernandez, Head of Sector for Central Asia, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission (5 min) • Ms Alessandra Fianza, Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security (5 min) <p>Q&A Discussion</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Summary by the Co-Chairs and closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Davor Percan, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission • Ms Roberta Ronzitti, Director International Cooperation, Directorate General European and International Affairs, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security • Mr Nurken Sharbiyev, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, representing the host country of the Eighth EU–CA High-Level Conference.