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**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

GREEN Action Task Force

Draft agenda: 2023 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force

11-12 May 2023 starting at 9h30 on the first day (Istanbul time)
Istanbul, Türkiye

Please consult

- [Dedicated Annual Meeting webpage](#) for additional meeting documents.
- [Logistical Note](#) for further information about logistics including transportation and other administrative issues.
- ZOOM registration [LINK](#) for online participation.

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2023 Annual meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 May 2023,

OECD Istanbul Centre, Türkiye

(Address: 142 Istiklal Caddesi, Beyoglu, Istanbul)

Draft Agenda

All meeting documents are available online: <https://oe.cd/GATF2023>

[ZOOM registration link](#) for those who wish to participate online

Background

1. Since 2016, the GREEN Action Task Force, (and previously under the name of the EAP Task Force) has been a unique platform for interested OECD countries and development co-operation partners to work with the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)¹ to facilitates reforms, development and implementation of policies that improve environmental quality and social well-being in the region, while creating opportunities for strong economic growth and decent jobs.
2. In 2022, the Environment Ministers who gathered at the 9th “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference agreed to renew the mandate of the Task Force² and called for the continuation of its activities, including support to Ukraine. Since the mandate renewal, the Task Force Secretariat has consulted with various members of the Task Force and stakeholders within the OECD Environmental Policy Committee on its future directions³.
3. The 2023 Annual meeting aims to enable members of the Task Force and partners to:
 - Exchange views on the recent developments and plans towards green economy transition in the EECCA region, including in the context of Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine
 - Discuss the implementation of the GREEN Action Task Force work programme (progress since the last meeting and plans for 2023-24)

¹ The EECCA now includes: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova (Moldova), Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² See para 20 of the [EfE Ministerial Declaration](#):

³ See also [https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/ENV-EPOC-EAP\(2022\)2-REV1.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/ENV-EPOC-EAP(2022)2-REV1.pdf)

- Discuss selected substantive issues related to green economy transition in EECCA: private-sector engagement; greening public finance; mobilising and catalysing private-sector investment and the current state and ways forward for biodiversity policies.
 - Designate Members of the Task Force Bureau for the 2023-24 term.
4. The GREEN Action Task Force meeting will bring together high level officials from the Ministries of Environment and of Economy from the EECCA and interested OECD member countries, as well as development co-operation partners, financial institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector active in the region.
1. Further information about the meeting, including the documentation and information about the logistical arrangements, is available from the GREEN Action Task Force web site (<https://oe.cd/GATF2023>).
5. English-Russian interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

DAY 1

[Welcome coffee/tea provided at the venue]

Thursday 11 May 2023, Starting at 09:30 (Istanbul Time), the OECD Istanbul Centre***Special Session: Environmental impacts of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, prospects for a green reconstruction of Ukraine and the role of the GREEN Action Task Force***09:30-12:30
(Istanbul
time)

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has resulted in tens of thousands of lives being lost and the associated humanitarian crisis has led to many besieged and displaced people both within Ukraine and abroad. The environment, natural resource base and infrastructure have not been spared by the war. Further, it has also led to far-reaching consequences on energy and food security in EECCA countries, which may also derail their effort towards low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways.

This Special Session aims to exchange views about the impacts of the war on economic and environmental policies in Ukraine and broader EECCA region. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss how members of the GREEN Action Task Force, the OECD Secretariat and partner organisations could contribute to improving the environmental situation in Ukraine. Discussion will build on a recent discussion focused on monitoring and assessing the impacts of the war.

Welcome

- **Mr Jürgen Keinhorst**, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair / Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

Introductory remarks

- **Mr Yevhenii Fedorenko**, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (online)
- **Mr Andrzej Januszewski**, European Commission (online)

Assessments of the environmental damage resulting from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

- **Mr Nicholas Bonvoisin**, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **Mr Mahir Aliyev**, United Nations Environmental Programme (online)

The impact of the war on the economies of EECCA

- **Ms P line Atamer**, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Open discussion

- How could members of the GREEN Action Task Force, the OECD Secretariat and partner organisations contribute to addressing environmental challenges in Ukraine, including support to the future reconstruction of the country in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- Has the impact of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine changed the nature or direction of policy discussion and development on the environment and/or energy in your country or your partner countries? If so, how?

12:30-14:00	Networking lunch @ Marmara Pera Hotel (at 4 min walking distance)
Official start of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force	
14:00-14:15 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 1: Opening remarks, adoption of an agenda and a draft summary record of the 2022 Annual Meeting</p> <p>The Co-Chair, a representative of Türkiye and of the Secretariat will welcome the participants. The Co-Chair will introduce the agenda and the summary record of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair / Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany • Ms Arzu Onsal, Deputy Director, Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye • Mr Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD <p>The Task Force members will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting, and take note the summary record of the last Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force meeting (30 June and 1 July, 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia)</p> <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft agenda [ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2023)1] • Summary record of the 2022 Annual Meeting [LINK]
14:15-15:00 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 2: Implementation of 2023-2024 Programme of Work and Budget of GREEN Action Task Force</p> <p>This session aims to provide an update on the implementation of the ongoing work by the Task Force and on the future work under the current Programme of Work (2023-2024) and beyond.</p> <p>Secretariat update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat will provide an update on the Task Force's activities since the last Annual Meeting in June/July 2022 <p>Open discussion</p> <p>The Task Force members will be invited to take note of the update. They may wish to ask questions for clarification and share their views on the practical results and benefits of co-operation under the GREEN Action Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the priorities presented reflect the views of the GREEN Action Task Force members? • How to reinforce the impacts, practical results and benefits of co-operation under the Task Force? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room document: Presentation of the Secretariat • GREEN Action Task Force Work Programme 2023-24 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2022)1/REV1]
15:00-15:30	Coffee break

<p>15:30-17:30 (Istanbul time)</p>	<p>Item 3: Thematic discussion: Private-sector engagement in green economy transition in EECCA</p> <p>The private sector, large businesses and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as private financial institutions, play a key role in pursuing economic development that is environmentally and socially sustainable in EECCA. The private sector can translate the policy commitments on green economy into aligned action across the real economy.</p> <p>There has been a range of work conducted under the GREEN Action Task Force, including on green SME development, private-sector finance mobilisation for green growth, while upcoming work on industry decarbonisation is also envisaged.</p> <p>This session discusses examples of good practice in private-sector engagement in green economy transition, outstanding challenges and areas where the Task Force work could further contribute to scaling up such good practice within the EECCA region in order to strengthen competitiveness of businesses in EECCA countries while achieving their national environmental goals.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Ms Virginie Marchal, OECD</p> <p>Scene-setting presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Takayoshi Kato, OECD: Private-sector engagement for climate-resilient agribusinesses • Mr Romeo Mikautadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia: The role of governments in engaging the private sector to advance sustainable development agenda • Mr Kakha Karchkhadze, Scientific Consultant and Advisor, Biodiesel Georgia LLC: The role of businesses in advancing a green economy transition and expectation for the government • Mr Andrey Zhironkin, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Lessons for further engagement with agri-businesses: Financial institutions' perspective • Ms P�line Atamer and Mr Deger Saygin, OECD: On-going OECD work on industry decarbonisation and planned activities in the frame of Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia (SIPA) <p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What roles should private-sector entities play in driving or supporting the transition to economies aligned with climate, biodiversity and other environmental policy goals in your countries? • How can EECCA governments and their development partners further improve approaches and platforms to engage with the private sector to achieve environmental goals and support business competitiveness in the region at the same time? What good practice examples and lessons are you aware of? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate-resilient agribusiness in Central Asia: Selected examples of the Water, Energy, Land-use Nexus approach</i> [LINK]
<p>18:00</p>	<p>Dinner</p> <p>@ Sofitel Istanbul La Table (Address: G�m�şsuyu, Siraselviler Cd. No:13, 34437 Beyođlu/Istanbul)</p>

DAY 2

[Welcome coffee/tea provided at the venue]

Friday 12 May 2023, Starting at 09:30 (Istanbul Time), the OECD Istanbul Centre

09:30-11:00
(Istanbul
time)**Item 4: Thematic discussion: Mobilising and catalysing private-sector investment in green economy transition in EECCA**

Access to affordable financing is among the greatest challenges for the private sector, especially for SMEs, to investing in green growth in EECCA and across the globe. Domestic financial systems in EECCA countries have been growing steadily over the past years. In general, however, they do not yet provide sufficient finance to address key problems. Financial systems of many EECCA countries also remain vulnerable to external shocks. The recent inflationary pressure and higher capital costs, following the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's aggression against Ukraine, made this issue even more challenging.

Building on the discussion under Item 3 and relevant OECD work on mobilisation of capital markets for green growth in the region, this session discusses the role that capital markets in EECCA can realistically play in financing long-term green investments and helping the countries achieve their climate-related targets. It also aims to discuss what governments could do to support the private-sector financial institutions to align their activities with national climate and environmental targets.

Moderator: Mr Krzysztof Michalak, OECD

Scene-setting presentations

- **Ms Nelly Petkova, OECD:** Mobilising private-sector investment including greening debt capital markets in EECCA
- **Mr Ara Sargsyan, Ameriabank, Armenia:** Insights from commercial banks for promoting green finance and investment in Armenia
- **Ministry of Economy of Armenia (tbc):** The role of governments in mobilising and catalysing private-sector investment in green economy transition Perspectives from Environment or Economy Ministries in the EECCA region
- **Mr Jonathan Grosvenor, Asian Development Bank:** Support for greening of financial sector - Perspectives from development financial institutions

Open discussion

- What are the main opportunities for, and constraints to, local financial and capital markets to raise and scale up finance for green investments?
- Are debt capital market instruments, such as green bonds and other similar instruments, a realistic long-term source of green investments in the EECCA region?
- What do EECCA governments and regulators need to do to promote the expansion of the green debt market, increase demand for green investments and incentivise companies to raise green finance through the market?
- How can the donor community support EECCA governments in their efforts to improve market-based financing for green investments?

Meeting documents

- [Green Economy Transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Progress and Ways Forward](#)

11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 5: Thematic discussion: Greening public finance in EECCA countries</p> <p>The GREEN Action Task Force has worked for many years on environment and climate aspects of public financial management in EECCA countries. The work included, among others, assessments of fossil-fuel subsidies, distributional impacts of energy subsidy reform or reforming environmentally-related taxes. The Task Force also worked with EECCA countries on mechanisms to redirect public finance to action in support of green growth, such as national environmental funds and public investment programmes for clean transport or wastewater management.</p> <p>This session aims to collect views on where opportunities to green public finance exist in EECCA, at the national and sub-national levels, and exchange examples of good practice and remaining challenges regarding, capacities in the public sector to manage green investments programmes, public acceptance, data availability, among others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator: Ms Nelly Petkova, OECD</i></p> <p>Scene-setting presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr David Šimek, OECD: Greening public finance management, including green public investment programmes and fiscal support for clean energy transition • Mr Mihai Rusu, Ministry of Environment, Moldova: Experience in developing and operating Environmental Funds • Ms Anuki Batiashvili, Georgian Energy Development Fund, Georgia, GEDF's Experience of Cooperation with the International Financial Institutions • Mr Wolfgang Diernhofer, KPC Consulting, Public expenditure management in Austria (online) <p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of public environmental finance in promoting environmental / green investments? • What are the main challenges facing the governments in managing public environmental expenditure programmes and institutions such as Environmental Funds? • How can the OECD, development partners and Development Finance Institutions further support EECCA governments in their efforts to improve their environmental support programmes? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Economy Transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Progress and Ways Forward
13:00-14:30	Lunch @ Marmara Pera Hotel (at 4 min walking distance)
14:30-16:00 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 6: Thematic discussion: Biodiversity policies in EECCA -- Current state and ways forward</p> <p>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022, is already stimulating national and regional policy processes on biodiversity conservation and natural resource management within all Parties, including in the EECCA countries. The past collaboration between EECCA countries and the GREEN Action Task Force has already included certain aspects of ecological conservation, including work related to water quality and environmental compliance, as well as the recently launched Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia.</p>

	<p>Given the Task Force's recent proposal to put greater emphasis on ecological sustainability in its future work, this session aims to discuss the trends in legal and policy frameworks on biodiversity in EECCA , emerging initiatives in this policy domain and possible options for ways-forward for the future Task Force work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: <i>Matthew Griffiths, OECD</i></p> <p>Scene-setting presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Karin Zaunberger, DG Environment, European Commission: The new Global Biodiversity Framework, EU policy frameworks for biodiversity, and emerging opportunities for EECCA region (online) • Mr James Dalton, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (TBC): Nature-based solutions for water resource management and biodiversity conservation (online) • Ms Ganna Lobchenko, WWF Central and Eastern Europe: Perspectives from Civil Society on biodiversity conservation – based on the ongoing Regenerate Ukraine Initiative • Mr Takayoshi Kato, OECD: Trends on policy frameworks on biodiversity in EECCA and possible directions for the GREEN Action Task Force future work <p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges to developing, implementing and/or supporting biodiversity-related policies in EECCA countries? • Given many existing initiatives on biodiversity in the EECCA region, where could be the value-added of the Task Force work? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Background document: Biodiversity policies in EECCA - Current status and possible ways forward for the GREEN Action Task Force</i>
16:00-16:30 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 7: Designation of Bureau Members for the 2023-2024 term</p> <p>The Bureau of the Task Force is composed of four representatives of OECD countries (one as Co-Chair and three as Vice-Chairs) and four representatives of EECCA countries (one as Co-Chair and three as Vice-Chairs), each serving in their personal capacity. The Bureau is elected for the period of two years.</p> <p>The Secretariat will present suggested candidates to the Bureau for designation. The Task Force members will be invited to designate the new members of the Bureau for 2023-24.</p> <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Designation of Bureau Members of the GREEN Action Task Force for the period 2023-2024 [ROOM DOCUMENT]</i>
16:30-17:00 (Istanbul time)	<p>Item 8: Other business and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Krzysztof Michalak, OECD • Co-chairs of the GREEN Action Task Force