



EU – CENTRAL ASIA STRATEGY FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER COOPERATION

The 6th meeting of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change

Italian Pavilion, Astana Expo 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan

10-11 July 2017

MEETING AGENDA

FINAL

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the 6th meeting of the EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change are summarised below:

- Respectively updating EU and Central Asian (CA) countries on the main developments in EU-Central Asia cooperation in the area of environment and climate change since the 5th Working Group meeting in December 2016;
- Discussing how to maximise access to international funds for climate resilient environment/water infrastructure, green finance and eco-innovation;
- Identifying main cross-cutting policy issues to be addressed by countries while applying for international funding through (i) IFIs for investments in water/district heating or waste management at municipal level or (ii) the Green Climate Fund;
- Initiating a discussion on key directions and joint actions for the further strengthening of CA regional organisations active in water, environment and climate change;
- Discussing key capacity building/training needs of CA countries and regional organisations for improved environmental governance, response to climate challenges, project design and financing;
- Setting priorities for work in preparation of the 7th meeting of the EU-CA WGECC to be held in February/March 2018
- Agreeing on the country and venue for the 7th meeting of the EU-CA WGECC.

BACKGROUND

The Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation was established at the EU-CA High Level (Ministerial) Conference in Rome (Italy) in 2009. The major objective for the Platform is to constitute a framework for the implementation of the EU-CA Cooperation in water and environment based on the EU Strategy for Central Asia agreed by the CA states. The EU-CA WGECC assists in the identification of EU-CA regional cooperation priority actions on environment and climate change and supports the Platform by strengthening policy dialogue and cooperation at the regional level and between EU and CA. Five WGECC meetings were held since 2010. The Italian Ministry of the Environment Land and Sea has been chairing the Working Group since its establishment in 2009.

The priority areas of the EU-CA Cooperation Platform are as follows:

- More focused and results-oriented EU-CA regional dialogue on environment and climate change, building on all stakeholders' participation (including national governments, international donors, international financial institutions, regional organisations and civil society).





- Strengthened institutional commitments to Multilateral Environmental Agreements through adherence to international Conventions with particular attention paid to implementation
- Improved environment and water infrastructure, access to climate financing and innovation in CA
- Enhanced regional and trans-boundary cooperation in CA
- Improved capacity of main stakeholders in CA necessary for implementation of the above priorities.

These priorities are based on the Joint Declaration of the EU-CA High Level (Ministerial) Conference in Milan in October 2015 and reflected in the Action Plan, which was developed and subsequently discussed and endorsed by the 5th meeting of the Working Group, held in Brussels on 15-16 December 2016¹.

¹[HTTP://WWW.WECOOP2.EU/EVENTS/WGECC-GATHERS-IN-BRUSSELS FOR ALL WGECC-RELATED DOCUMENTS](http://www.wecoop2.eu/events/wgecc-gathers-in-brussels-for-all-wgecc-related-documents)



Day 1: Monday, 10 July 2017	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 – 10:00	<p>OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:</p> <p>Chair: Mr Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy Welcoming remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan • H.E. Mr Stefano Ravagnan, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Republic of Kazakhstan • H.E Mr Traian Hristea, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan
<p>SESSION 1: Update on progress since the 5th WGECC meeting and perspectives on future developments</p> <p>Chair: Mr Johannes Stenbaek-Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan</p>	
10:00 – 11:15	<p>Overview of the recent developments in EU policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by the European Commission <p>Overview of the recent EU policy developments on environment and current trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Patrick Wegerdt, DG ENV/ Mr Niels Schuster, DG CLIMA <p>Overview of the recent developments in EU approach and policies on transition to low-emission and climate-resilient economy and perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Niels Schuster, DG CLIMA <p>Presentation of the EU-funded project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-sector Investment in Central Asia”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Ludmila Kiktenko, CAREC <p>Results of the EU Project Media for Improved reporting on environment and natural resources in Central Asia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Farhod Rahmatov, EU-INTERNEWS project in CA
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee/tea break
11:45 – 13:15	<p>Delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are invited to inform on current needs and future developments in the areas of environmental governance and climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Kazakstan • 10 min presentation by Kyrgyzstan • 10 min presentation by Tajikistan • 10 min presentation by Turkmenistan • 10 min presentation by Uzbekistan • Views from Central Asian NGOs
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch



SESSION 2: Discussion forum on facilitating financing for environment/water infrastructure projects, accessing climate change financing and eco-innovation

Chair: Mr Jean-Louis Lavroff, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan

The main objective is to discuss needs and priorities of the Central Asian countries and regional organisations and to jointly elaborate recommendations:

Item 1: Examples of successful infrastructure projects in Central Asia and related policy issues

Item 2: Access to international funds – how to maximise the access of the Central Asian countries to the Green Climate Fund?

Item 3: Priorities for infrastructure and related cross-cutting issues and the way forward for identification of the key policy issues. Better access to project financing by international financial institutions.

<p>14:15 – 16:00</p>	<p>Item 1: Examples of successful infrastructure projects and related policy issues.</p> <p>A successful project in water/district heating at municipal level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Bakhtiyor Faiziev (EBRD) <p>Developing Integrated and Green Solutions for Municipal Solid Waste Management in Kazakhstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Gayane Minasyan (WB) <p>Successful infrastructure projects and related policy issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Giovanni Capannelli (ADB) <p>Financial planning and identification of economically sound investment projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Alexandre Martoussevitch (OECD) <p>Adopting new technologies through the Green Technology Centre, Kazakhstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Alia Shalabekova, Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan <p>Effective economic mechanisms - basis for development of urban water supply and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Manshuk Sarsembekova, Association of Water Supply and Sanitation Enterprises, Kazakhstan <p>Barriers to implementation of waste management projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Vera Mustafina, Director of Kazakhstan Waste Management Association “KazWaste” <p>Barriers and risks to investment projects in municipal sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Sergey Khudyakov, Head of Pertopavlovsk Association of KCK (Kazakhstan) <p>Open discussion: Current needs and plans for investment in infrastructure in Central Asia in water/heating and waste management systems at municipal level – which technologies are the most suitable for Central Asia?</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>Coffee/tea break</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>Item 2: Access to international funds – how to maximise the access of the Central Asian countries to the Green Climate Fund</p> <p>Moderator: Alessandra Fidanza, Sogesid S.p.A. - Technical Assistance Unit, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea</p>



	<p>GCF Regional Workshop for Eastern Europe and Central Asia: a follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Sogesid S.p.A. - Technical Assistance Unit, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea <p>Access to GCF financing by Kyrgyzstan – lessons learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Ms Aizada Barieva (State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan) <p>GCF preparedness program for Tajikistan – lessons learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Rakhmatullo Khairulloev (Committee for Nature Protection) <p>Overview of EBRD/GCF project FP040 " Scaling Up Hydropower Sector Climate Resilience"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Bakhtiyor Faiziev (EBRD) <p>Financing climate change adaptation projects in transboundary basins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by Mr Batyr Hajiyev (UNECE) <p>Open discussion: Access to international funds – How to setup the national framework for accessing the GCF, and to elaborate successful proposals to maximise access to funds. Learning from existing experience in CA countries and feedback from the Green Climate Fund. Discussion on the Countries' priorities for the GCF Regional Pipeline.</p>
17:30 – 18:15	<p>Item 3: Identification of the main cross-cutting policy issues to be addressed in (i) proposals for IFIs investment in water/heating and waste infrastructure at municipal level, and (ii) in proposals to GCF</p> <p>Investor guide for CA countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by WECOOP2 <p>List of the key cross-cutting policy issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by WECOOP2 <p>Open discussion: The main cross-cutting policy issues in CA countries</p>
CONCLUSION OF SESSION 2:	
Chair: Mr Jean-Louis Lavroff, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan	
18:15 – 18:30	<p>Conclusions and the way forward towards the 7th WGECC meeting (Feb/Mar 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of the key cross-cutting policy issues discussed and agreed. • How to prepare better proposals for the GCF - key issues? • Readiness of Central Asian countries to propose detailed concepts for 1 or 2 projects per country in water/heating and waste management sectors for consideration by international financial institutions and presentation at the 7th meeting of the WG
18:30 – 19:30	Transfer of participants to the Comfort Hotel (venue for gala dinner)
19:30 –	Gala dinner (Comfort Hotel, 60 Kosmonavtov st, Astana)



Day 2: Tuesday, 11 July 2017	
SESSION 3: Key directions for further strengthening of CA regional organisations and capacity building/training needs in CA countries	
Chair: Mr Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy	
09:00 – 11:30	<p>Item 1: Strengthening of regional cooperation in Central Asia in environmental governance and climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentations by Bolat Bekniyaz (IFAS) • 10 min presentation by Mr Batyr Mamedov (ICSD) • 10 min presentation by Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov (CAREC) • 10 min presentation by Mr. Fulai Sheng (UN Environment) • 10 min presentation by Mr Peep Mardiste (UNECE) • 10 min presentation by Mr Rati Japaridze (OSCE) • 10 min presentation by Mr Andre Fabian (GIZ) <p>Open discussion: Participants are invited to provide their views on key directions for further strengthening of CA regional organization and enhancement of regional cooperation in environmental governance and climate change action</p>
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee/tea break
12:00 – 13:30	<p>Item 2: Key capacity building/training needs in CA countries for improved environmental governance and response to climate change challenges</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Jean-Louis Lavroff, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</p> <p>Current assessment of training needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min joint presentation by CAREC and WECOOP2 <p>A concept for a Regional Center of Excellence/Advisory Facility on project design, financing and PPP in Central Asia (based on the existing facility established by EU/EIB in MENA region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 min presentation by WECOOP2 <p>Open discussion: Participants are invited to give their views on capacity building/training needs and modalities of its implementation. Participants (in particular CA countries and IFIs) are invited to give their views about the establishment of a Regional Center of Excellence on project design, financing and PPP (public-private partnership).</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
MEETING CONCLUSION: Adoption of the meeting conclusions.	
Chair: Mr Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy	
15:00 – 17:15	<p>Presentation of the meeting conclusions and open discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are invited to discuss, comment and reach agreement on the draft meeting conclusions. <p>Agreement on the draft meeting conclusions</p>



Day 3: Wednesday, 12 July 2017	
09:30 – 10:00	Transfer from the Comfort Hotel to the premises of EXPO 2017
10:00 – 14:30	Free visit of EXPO 2017
14:30	Transfer from EXPO 2017 back to the Comfort Hotel