



## **Committee on Environmental Policy, Twenty-eight session**

# **Item 4: Outcomes of the seventieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe**

**Briefing by Ms. Nicola Koch**

Chef de Cabinet and Secretary of the Commission

1 November 2023



# 70<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATIONS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

18-19 APRIL 2023 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

- **Rich discussion during high-level segment on designated cross-cutting theme**
- **Follow up report on implementation of decisions taken at the previous session**
- **Virtual side event programme in the lead up to the session**



## ➤ **11 Decisions taken**, including on

**B (70) Digital and green transformations** in support of the sustainable development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

**C (70) Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural resources**

**J (70) Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders** under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

➤ **New Bureau elected:** Switzerland (Chair)  
Austria and Montenegro (Vice-Chairs)

## B (70) Digital and green transformations in support of sustainable development in the ECE region



15. Requests the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, to **consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices;**

16. Invites these subsidiary bodies to **replicate and scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments**, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;

17. Further invites these subsidiary bodies, **as appropriate, to consider developing proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote digital and green transformations and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;**

## C (70) Promotion of Circular Economy and the sustainable use of natural resources

3. **Recognizes with appreciation the efforts made by relevant sectoral committees** (...), and by the secretariat of the Commission to further strengthen its work in this field (...);
4. Acknowledges that the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy may serve as a framework for voluntary initiatives on circular economy, resource efficiency and sustainable infrastructure development, including through promoting nature-based solutions, towards a just transition; (...)
6. **Invites relevant subsidiary bodies, the secretariat and member States to continue their efforts in this regard and explore synergies also with the Commission's future work**, especially initiatives related to digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of ECE;
7. Notes that **the early designation of a high-level theme has effectively facilitated closer collaboration across the secretariat, the intergovernmental architecture and the broad expert community** of the Commission and **made their collective expertise available** to the deliberations at the session of the Commission ...

## J (70) Implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention



- **Decision with Programme Budget implications.**

(...)

**8. Requests the Secretary-General to increase the support by ECE, in order to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to facilitate the implementation of the rapid response mechanism for the protection of environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention;**

- **ECOSOC endorsed the Commission decision at its Management Segment in July 2023.**

- **Further consideration is ongoing at the financial bodies at UN Headquarters.**

## List of other decisions taken at the 70<sup>th</sup> session



A (70) Economic and Social Effects of Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine;

D (70) Extension of the mandate of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

E (70) Building resilient energy systems;

F (70) Decision to study finance for energy-related climate change activities in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe, particularly related to critical raw materials;

G (70) Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Mitigation;

H (70) United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements;

I (70) Request to strengthen the role of the secretariat of the Economic Commission of Europe in supporting member States in building resilient energy systems and modernizing resource management systems;

K (70) Matters related to sustainable transport and mobility.

Biannual Report **E/2023/37 - E/ECE/1503**

Report by the Secretary General for consideration by ECOSOC under the item “Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields” (July 2023)

Addendum 1 **E/2023/15/Add.1**

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: .... Economic Commission for Europe...”

Website: <https://unece.org/info/Sessions-of-the-Commission/events/371506>

