

Strasbourg, 27/09/2024

GME(2024)AR1

AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT (GME)

1st meeting
25–27 September 2024

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 1st meeting in Strasbourg, 25-27 September 2024. The meeting was opened by the Secretariat and chaired by Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, until the election of the Chair of the GME.

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law delivered a statement to the GME.

2. The GME adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
3. The GME elected Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU (Greece) as Chair, Ms Nino LATSABIDZE (Georgia) as Vice-Chair, Ms Charlotte BLONDEL (France), Ms Agnes GABOR-HOSSZU (Hungary), and Ms Michelle DUIN (the Netherlands) as three Bureau members in accordance with the Resolution CM/res(2021)3.
4. The GME took note of the terms of reference, mandate, deliverables and deadlines as set out in document [GME\(2024\)1](#).
5. The GME held an exchange of views with the Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH), Ms Krista OINONEN.
6. The GME held an exchange of views with the Chair of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon MOUTQUIN.
7. The GME considered a Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment (document [GME\(2024\)2](#)) and took note of other related developments in the Council of Europe.
8. The GME held an exchange of views concerning the challenges of the triple planetary crisis at national level on the basis of the written contributions received to the questionnaire set out in document [GME\(2024\)6](#) and other oral contributions made during the meeting. Delegations were invited to submit their written contributions to the Secretariat (GME@coe.int) by 11 October 2024.
9. The GME undertook the preparation of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and held a preliminary exchange of view on the basis of the proposed elements for the elaboration of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment set out in document [GME\(2024\)3](#) and in the light of the above-mentioned Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment

(document [GME\(2024\)2](#)). Delegations were invited to submit any additional comments or observations to document [GME\(2024\)3](#) to the Secretariat (GME@coe.int) by 11 October 2024. The comments should follow as applicable the following structures: a) General comments to the strategy and the document, b) comments on the introductory section of the document, and c) comments to the specific sections of the Appendix of the document.

10. The GME considered the requests of the observer status formulated by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE) and the Green Rights Coalition as set out respectively in documents [GME\(2024\)7](#), [GME\(2024\)8](#), [GME\(2024\)9](#) and decided by unanimity to grant the observer status and invited them to the hearing which will be held at its next meeting.
11. The GME decided to hold its 2nd meeting in Strasbourg, on 9-11 December 2024 and adopted the preliminary draft agenda as set out in Appendix III. The GME also took note that the 3rd meeting will be held in Strasbourg, on 11-13 February 2025.
12. Any other business, Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI, Chair of the Bern Convention Standing Committee, provided an update on the developments regarding the protection status of the wolf in the European Union. The Secretariat also provided an update regarding the activities of the Landscape Convention.
13. The GME adopted the present abridged report.

Appendix I – Agenda of the 1st meeting of the GME

Appendix II – List of participants

Appendix III – Preliminary Draft agenda of the 2nd meeting of the GME

APPENDIX I

1st meeting
25–27 September 2024
Council of Europe - Agora G03
(opening at 9.30 on 25 September and closing at 12.30 on 27 September 2024)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat
2. Adoption of the agenda
[GME(2024)OJ1]
3. Round table of presentation of participants
4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members of the GME
[CM/Res(2021)3]
5. Terms of reference of the GME
[GME(2024)1, GME(2024)4]
6. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
7. Exchange of views with the Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH)
8. Exchange of views with the Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
9. Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment
[GME(2024)2]
10. Identification of the challenges of the triple planetary crisis: pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in member States
[GME(2024)5, GME(2024)6]
11. Preparation of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment
[GME(2024)3]
12. Requests for observer status to the GME
[GME(2024)7, GME(2024)8, GME(2024)9]
13. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the next meeting
[GME(2024)OJ2]
14. Any other business
15. Adoption of the abridged report
[GME(2024)AR1]

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	Mr Andi XHOI Deputy to the Permanent Representative
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Ms Olimpia TORRES BARROS Deputy to the Permanent Representative
ARMENIA / ARMENIE	Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia Ms Marianna MANUCHARYAN Deputy to the Permanent Representative
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Mr Anton WEIN-WISLOCKI Head of Unit Bi- und Multilateral Climate, Environment and Energy Diplomacy MFA Austria Mr Michael KAINZ (apologised/excusé) Head of Department Sustainability, Connectivity and Innovation MFA Austria Mr Matthias KRESINGER (apologised/ excusé) Department for International Climate, Energy and Environmental Affairs Ministry for Climate Action Austria
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN	Mr Sanan ALIYEV Deputy to Permanent Representative

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	<p>Ms Sophie THYS Legal policy advisor International and European policy for the Flemish Department of Environmental and Spatial Development</p> <p>Ms Leen CHANET (apologised/excusée) Legal policy advisor International policy for the Flemish Department Environmental and Spatial Development</p>
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE & HERZEGOVINE	
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	
CROATIA / CROATIE	
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	<p>Mr Kostas PSEVDIOTIS Deputy Permanent Representative</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	<p>Dr Pavel HLAVACEK Officer Department of International Relations, Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Ms Kornélie GATICA GRONSKÁ (apologised/excusée) Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
DENMARK / DANEMARK	<p>Ms Cornelia SIGRID ALBRECHTSEN (apologised/excusée) Mr Tomas KØNIGSFELDT (apologised/excusée) Mr Lars VOLCK MADSEN (apologised/excusé) Ms Hélène FESTER (apologised/excusée)</p> <p>Danish Ministry of Foreign Affair</p>
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	<p>Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate</p>
FINLAND / FINLANDE	<p>Ms Charlotta VON TROIL Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Unit for International and EU Affairs</p>
FRANCE	<p>Ms Charlotte BLONDEL Legal Adviser at the Human Rights Sub-Directorate, Directorate of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs</p>
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	<p>Ms Nino LATSABIDZE Deputy Head of International Relations and European Integration Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</p>
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	<p>Ms Heike THIELE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary</p> <p>Ms Friederike STEGLICH Deputy Permanent Representative</p>

	<p>Mr Thomas LAUT Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p> <p>Ms Bettina KOHLER Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
GREECE / GRÈCE	<p>Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU Ambassador, Head of Directorate for the Protection of Environment, Climate Change and World Politics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,</p> <p>Ms Alikì GKANA, Rapporteur Legal Department Public International Law Section Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Mr Michail NAKOS Deputy to Permanent Representative</p> <p>Ms Eleni KANAKI Deputy to Permanent Representative</p>
HUNGARY / HONGRIE	<p>Dr Ágnes Anna GÁBOR-HOSSZÚ</p> <p>Head of Unit Department of Environmental Development and Strategy Ministry of Energy</p>
ICELAND / ISLANDE	<p>Ms Cecile CHEVALIER LAIGNET Advisor to the Permanent Representative</p>
IRELAND / IRLANDE	<p>Ms Megan SKELLY Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</p> <p>Mr Andrew MALONE Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</p>
ITALY / ITALIE	<p>Dr Francesco FORTE Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p> <p>Ms Sara VANONCINI Study visitor at the Permanent Representation</p>
LATVIA / LETTONIE	<p>Mr Eduards DZENĪTIS Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
LIECHTENSTEIN	<p>Mr Fabian RITTER Diplomatic Officer (Second Secretary) at the Office for Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Mr Moritz RHEINBERGER Legal Associate at the Office of Environment</p>

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	Ms Reda SKIRKEVICIŪTĖ Counsellor of Legal division of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
LUXEMBOURG	Mr Tom SCHRAM Head of the Directorate for European and International Affairs Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity
MALTA / MALTE	
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Mr Nicolae COSLET Deputy to the Permanent Representative Mr Andrei URSU Deputy to the Permanent Representative
MONACO	Ms Céline VAN KLAVEREN-IMPAGLIAZZO (apologised/excusée) Head of Division at the Department of External Relations and Cooperation Ms Margaux GIRARDIN Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe
MONTENEGRO	Mr Milos NIKOLIC Director Directorate for the OSCE and the Council of Europe Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro Ms Brankica CMILJANOVIĆ (apologised/excusée) Director of Directorate for improvement of environment Ministry of Ecology Sustainable Development and Development of the North
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	Ms Michelle DUIN Legal Officer at the International Law Division Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD	
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND (apologised/excusé) Research Coordinator Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment Ms Anita GHOLAMI Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Norway Ms Kamilla SVENDSBY Study visitor at the Permanent Representation
POLAND / POLOGNE	Ms Katarzyna KANIA Deputy to the Permanent Representative

	Ms Iwona MARCZYK-STĘPNIEWSKA Deputy to the Permanent Representative
PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL	Ms Maria João Frade TEIXEIRA Senior Officer, International Relations Department of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Ms Ana Castela RODRIGUES (apologised/excusée) Senior Officer, International Relations Department of the Ministry of Environment and Energy
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	Mr Mihai FLOROIU Deputy to the Permanent Representative
SAN MARINO / Saint-Marin	
SERBIA / SERBIE	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	Ms Andrea POLÁŠEKOVÁ The Director of Legislative Affairs of the Ministry of Environment Ms Natalia NOVAKOVA Legislative Affairs of the Ministry of Environment
SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	Mr Matija VIDMAR Legal Counsellor
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	Mr Carlos LUCINI Deputy to the Permanent Representative Mr Daniel JUSDADO (apologised/excusé) Deputy to the Permanent Ms Aina GIL Auxiliary Member
SWEDEN / SUÈDE	Mr Claes BERGDAHL Deputy Permanent Representative
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV) Dr. iur. Maya BEELER-SIGRON, LL.M. Jurist, International Human Rights Protection Unit (IMRS), Federal Office of Justice (OFJ)
TÜRKIYE	Ms İrde ÇETİNTÜRK GÜRTEPE Head of Department Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Ms Şeyma UÇAR SEÇGEL Expert

	<p>Ms Gülriz ÇINAR BERKİN (apologised/excusée) Expert</p> <p>Mr Sarp Ege ÖZPİRİNÇİ Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
UKRAINE / UKRAINE	<p>Mr Iaroslav ZHYDENKO Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	<p>Ms Eva HUEHNE (apologised/excusée) Senior Lawyer International Environment, Marine and Fisheries Defra Legal Advisers, Government Legal Department</p> <p>Ms Isobel COOK Human Rights and Environment Policy Lead, Human Rights Department FCDO, United Kingdom</p> <p>Mr Mark GOREY Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>

PARTICIPANTS /
PARTICIPANTS
COUNCIL OF EUROPE ENTITIES /
ENTITES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Mr Simon MOUTQUIN Chair of the Committee of Social Affairs, Public Health and Sustainable Development Ms Claire DUBOIS-HAMDI Ms Aiste RAMANAUSKAITE Committee of Social Affairs, Public Health and Sustainable Development
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	Mr Dan POPESCU Head of Department of Promoting Local Democracy Mr Guillaume LOISEAU Co-Secretary of the Committee on the Monitoring of the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and on the respect of Human Rights and the Rule of Law
European Court of Human Rights	Ms Zoë BRYANSTON-CROSS Deputy Head, Office of the President of the Court
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe	Ms Erliha BIČAKČIĆ (apologised/excusée) Deputy to the Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Mr Andrzej MANCEWICZ Adviser to the Commissioner
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	Ms Amy JACOBSEN Greenpeace International, on behalf of the INGO Conference

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ENTITIES /
COMITES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Bern Convention	Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (also representative of Estonia) Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate
CDADI	Ms Cristina MILAGRE Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion
CDCP	
CDCPP	
CDDH	Ms Krista OINONEN Chair CDDH Mr David MILNER Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division

CDDH-ENV	Dr Nicola WENZEL, LL.M. Chairperson CDDH-ENV Head of Human Rights Division Agent before the European Court of Human Rights Federal Ministry of Justice, Germany
CDEDU	
CDENF	Ms Katrin UERPMANN Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child
GEC	Ms Yanna PARNIN Ms Valerie POPPE Gender Equality Commission
ECSR	Ms Diana BALANESCU Ms Kamile MICHAILOVSKYTE European Charter of Social Rights
EUR-OPA	Ms Ana FREITAS National Authority for Civil Protection Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN Executive Secretary
Landscape Convention	Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER (also representative for Switzerland) Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV)
PC-ENV	
Advisory Council on Youth	Ms Agni GKOUTZIAMANI Youth and Environment Europe – YEE on the CCJ Mr Jannis GUSTKE International Young Nature Friends – IYNF on the CCJ

OBSERVER STATES TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE /
OBSERVATEURS PERMANENTS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CANADA	
HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE	Mr Nicolas BAUER Ms Caterina PAPALIA
JAPAN / JAPON	
MEXICO / MEXIQUE	Ms Lydia ANTONIO (apologised/excusée) Deputy Permanent Observer of Mexico to the Council of Europe Ms Eva PIZANO CEJKA Deputy to the Permanent Representative
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE	

NON-MEMBER STATES PARTIES TO THE BERN CONVENTION /
ETATS NON-MEMBRES MAIS PARTIES A LA CONVENTION DE BERNE

BURKINA FASO	
MOROCCO / MAROC	
SENEGAL / SÉNÉGAL	
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	Mr Hedi CHEBILI Directeur général de l'environnement et de la qualité de vie au ministère de l'Environnement

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

European Union		
The United Nations and its agencies	OHCHR	Mr Benjamin SCHACHTER (apologised/excuse) Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change Team Ms Nela CERNOTA (apologised/excusee)
	UNDESA	
	UNEP	
The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)		
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)		Shardul AGRAWALA Head, Environment and Economy Integration Division

**OBSERVERS /
OBSERVATEURS**

Organisation	Nominated representative
International Union for Conservation of Nature	
World Wide Fund for Nature	
Youth and Environment Europe	Ms Emma PAGLIARUSCO Advocacy Coordinator at Youth and Environment Europe.
International Young Nature Friends	
ClientEarth	Ms Malgorzata KWIEDACZ-PALOSZ Senior Fundamental Rights Lawyer, Just Societies
Greenpeace	Mr Rodrigo ESTRADA PATIÑO Acting Program Director / Directeur intérimaire des programmes Greenpeace Canada
Wild Legal	Ms Marine CALMET (apologised/excusée) Juriste, Présidente Wild Legal Mr Vincent DELBOS (apologised/excusé) Membre Wild Legal, expert et magistrat honoraire
Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime	
Wildlife Justice Commission	
European network of national human rights institutions	Ms Paula NOWEK Human Rights Officer (Legal)
Amnesty International	Ms Ann HARRISON Climate Justice Researcher and Policy Advisor Ms Rita PATRÍCIO Senior Executive Officer for the Council of Europe
International Commission of Jurists	
International Federation of Human Rights	Mr Antoine MADELIN Advocacy Director Ms Lucia POSTERARO Staff member in the Business, Human Rights and Environment Desk

SECRETARIAT /
SECRÉTARIAT

Name / Nom	Position / Fonction
Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO	Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
Mr Rafael BENITEZ	Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment
Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI	Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
Mr Mikaël POUTIERS	Co- Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
Mr Michaël NGUYEN	Administrative and Project Officer, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment
Ms Irina SPOIALA	Administrative Assistant, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment
Ms Emilie DECKER	Study-visitor, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment

APPENDIX III

2nd meeting

9-11 Decembre 2024

Council of Europe – Agora G03

(opening at 9.30 on 9 December and closing at 17.30 on 11 December 2024)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda and report of the 1st GME meeting
[GME(2024)OJ2, GME(2024)R1]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
4. Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment
[GME(2024)2rev]
5. Exchange of views with the Chair of the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)
6. Exchanges of views with the Council of Europe Development Bank
7. Exchanges of views with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
8. Exchange of views with representatives of international organisations
9. Hearing with civil society
10. Hearing with youth
11. Preparation of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment
[GME(2024)10rev]
12. Nomination of a gender equality Rapporteur
13. Any other business
14. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the 3rd GME meeting
[GME(2024)OJ3prov]
15. Adoption of the abridged report
[GME(2024)AR2]

Proposed order of business - Items:

Time/date	09/12	10/12	11/12
A.M.	1 2 3 4	11	11 (part 2)
P.M.	5 6 7 8	9 10	12 13 14 15