

Strasbourg, 11/12/2024

GME(2024)AR2

## AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT (GME)

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
9–11 December 2024

### LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

#### ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Strasbourg on 9-11 December 2024. The meeting was chaired by Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU.
2. The GME adopted the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> GME meeting and the agenda as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
3. The GME took note of the Council of Europe developments concerning the environment, namely Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2273 “Towards Council of Europe strategies for healthy seas and oceans to counter the climate crisis”, Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2286 “Guaranteeing the human right to food” and Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)6](#) to member States on young people and climate action. The GME was also informed of the outcomes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, Strasbourg, 2-6 December 2024 – the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, Strasbourg, 29-30 October 2024 – the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Strasbourg, 26-29 November 2024, regarding the need for and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments on human rights and the environment – the 86<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), Strasbourg, 20-22 November 2024, regarding the approval of the draft Convention for the protection of the environment through criminal law which has been submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. The GME was also informed of the Council of Europe’s strategy “Carbon footprint, carbon trajectory, and action plan”.
4. The GME took note of the Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment ([GME\(2024\)2rev](#)) and agreed to transmit it to the Committee of Minister in pursuance of its terms of reference.
5. The GME considered the replies to a questionnaire regarding the challenges of the triple planetary crisis - pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss - and the analysis carried thereon and agreed to take it into account in the preparation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment.
6. In light of the preparation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment, the GME held an exchange of views with Ms Meropi-Spyridoula YDRAIOU (Greece, L, EPP/CCE), spokesperson on Environment and climate change for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, with Ms Aoife NOLAN, Chair of the Council of Europe’s European Committee of Social Rights, and with Mr. Tomáš BOČEK, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank and Tanja Faller, Director of the Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate. The GME also held an exchange of views with representatives of various

international organisations, Ms Agnes MICHELOT (IUCN), Ms Nela CERNOTA (OHCHR) and Ms Aiping CHEN (UNFCCC).

7. In the same vein, the GME held an exchange of views with representatives of civil society and, observer NGOs, namely: Ms Emma PAGLIARUSCO (Youth and Environment Europe), Ms Małgorzata KWIĘDACZ-PALOSZ (ClientEarth), Mr Rodrigo ESTRADA PATIÑO (Greenpeace), Mr Vincent DELBOS (Wild Legal), Ms Joanna CHOBELT (Wild Life Justice Commission), Ms Ann HARRISON (Amnesty International), Mr Sébastien DUYCK (Center for International Environmental Law), Ms Corina HERI (Global Network for Human Rights and The Environment), Ms Juliette DESSAGNE (Green Rights Coalition); and the Council of Europe Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations representative Ms Amy JACOBSEN (Greenpeace), as well as with representative of children and youth organisations, namely: Ms Mariama DIALLO, Mr Benjamin VAN BUNDEN ROBBERECHTS, Ms Ioana MIHAILESCU (Child Friendly Justice European Network), Mr Caillum HEDDERMAN (European Youth Forum), Ms Agni GOUTZMANI (Youth and Environment Europe), Mr Jannis GUTSKE (International Young Nature Friends), and Mr Sean CURRIE (Federation of Young European Greens).
8. The GME examined the preliminary draft Strategy on the Environment (document [GME\(2024\)10](#)). The GME welcomed the preliminary draft, took note of the various comments made by delegations which were invited to submit any comment of general nature, and specific amendments in writing (track changes to the Word version of the draft Strategy) to the Secretariat ([GME@coe.int](mailto:GME@coe.int)) by 31 December 2024.
9. The GME was informed about Ms Nino LATSABIDZE's departure from the Bureau and was invited to elect a new member in pursuance of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#). Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN (Armenia) was elected as member of the GME Bureau. Ms Charlotte BLONDEL (France) was elected as Vice-Chair of the GME.
10. The GME appointed Ms Michelle DUIN (the Netherlands) as Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Committee.
11. The GME decided to hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Strasbourg, on 11-13 February 2025, and adopted the preliminary draft agenda as set out in Appendix III.
12. The GME adopted the present abridged report.

Appendix I – Agenda

Appendix II – List of Participants

Appendix III – Preliminary Draft agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the GME

## APPENDIX I

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

9–11 December 2024

Council of Europe – Agora - Room G03

## AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the GME
2. Adoption of the report of the 1st GME meeting, and of the agenda of the 2nd meeting  
[GME(2024)OJ2prov, GME(2024)OJan2prov, GME(2024)R1prov]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe  
[PACE/Recommendation2273(2024), CM/AS(2024)Re2273-final, CM/Rec(2024)6,  
PACE/Recommendation2286(2024), PACE/Resolution2577(2024), GR-PBA(26/11/2024),  
GME(2024)13]
4. Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment  
[GME(2024)2rev]
5. Exchanges of views with Ms Meropi-Spyridoula YDRAIOU, spokesperson on Environment and  
climate change for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
6. Exchange of views with Ms Aoife NOLAN, Chair of the Council of Europe's European  
Committee of Social Rights  
[Vilnius Declaration]
7. Exchanges of views with Mr Tomáš BOČEK, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe  
Development Bank
8. Exchange of views with representatives of international organisations
9. Hearing with civil society
10. Hearing with children and youth
11. 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: initial  
examination of the written contributions received  
[GME(2024)11]
12. Preparation of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment  
[GME(2024)10, GME(2024)1, GME(2024)3rev, GME(2024)4 (page 3-4)]
13. Election of a Bureau member  
[CM/Res(2021)3]
14. Nomination of a gender equality Rapporteur  
[GME(2024)12]
15. Any other business

16. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the 3<sup>rd</sup> GME meeting  
[GME(2024)OJ3prov]
17. Adoption of the abridged report  
[GME(2024)AR2prov]

APPENDIX II  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**MEMBERS / MEMBRES**

<b>ALBANIA / ALBANIE</b>	
<b>ANDORRA / ANDORRE</b>	
<b>ARMENIA / ARMENIE</b>	<b>Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN</b> Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
<b>AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE</b>	<b>Mr Matthias KRESINGER</b> Department for International Climate, Energy and Environmental Affairs Ministry for Climate Action Austria
<b>AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN</b>	<b>Ms Ruziyya MALIKOVA</b> Second Secretary, Department for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
<b>BELGIUM / BELGIQUE</b>	<b>Ms Sophie THYS</b> Legal policy advisor International and European policy for the Flemish Department of Environmental and Spatial Development
<b>BOSNIA &amp; HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE &amp; HERZEGOVINE</b>	
<b>BULGARIA / BULGARIE</b>	

<b>CROATIA / CROATIE</b>	
<b>CYPRUS / CHYPRE</b>	
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE</b>	<b>Dr Pavel HLAVACEK</b> Officer Department of International Relations, Ministry of Environment
<b>DENMARK / DANEMARK</b>	
<b>ESTONIA / ESTONIE</b>	<b>Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI</b> Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate
<b>FINLAND / FINLANDE</b>	<b>Ms Charlotta VON TROIL</b> Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Unit for International and EU Affairs
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>Ms Charlotte BLONDEL</b> Legal Adviser at the Human Rights Sub-Directorate, Directorate of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
<b>GEORGIA / GÉORGIE</b>	<b>Ms Nino LATSABIDZE</b> Deputy Head of International Relations and European Integration Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
<b>GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE</b>	<b>Mr Ralph WOLLMAN</b> Presidential offices International Academy Transformation for Environment and Sustainability at UBA (TES Academy) German Environment Agency
<b>GREECE / GRÈCE</b>	<b>Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU</b> Ambassador, Head of Directorate for the Protection of Environment, Climate Change and World Politics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  <b>Ms Aliko GKANA,</b> Rapporteur Legal Department Public International Law Section Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>HUNGARY / HONGRIE</b>	<b>Dr Ágnes Anna GÁBOR-HOSSZÚ</b> Head of Unit Department of Environmental Development and Strategy Ministry of Energy

<b>ICELAND / ISLANDE</b>	<b>Ms María Erla MARELSDÓTTIR</b> Ambassador Climate Change, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland
<b>IRELAND / IRLANDE</b>	<b>Mr Andrew MALONE</b> Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>ITALY / ITALIE</b>	
<b>LATVIA / LETTONIE</b>	<b>Ms Anita TOCA</b> Climate Change Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Latvia to the European Union
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	<b>Ms Katherin WOLF</b> Trainee
<b>LITHUANIA / LITUANIE</b>	<b>Ms Inga AKSAMITAUSKAITĖ,</b> Advisor of the Group of the Environment protection policy coordination at the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<b>Mr Tom SCHRAM</b> Head of the Directorate for European and International Affairs Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity
<b>MALTA / MALTE</b>	
<b>REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA</b>	<b>Ms Mariana COVIC</b> Head of Financial and administrative Direction, Ministry of Environment
<b>MONACO</b>	<b>Ms Margaux GIRARDIN</b> Deputy to the Permanent Representative  <b>Mr Gabriel CHABERT</b> First Secretary to the Permanent Representative
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<b>Mr Milos NIKOLIC</b> Director Directorate for the OSCE and the Council of Europe Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro
<b>NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS</b>	<b>Ms Michelle DUIN</b> Legal Officer at the International Law Division Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD</b>	
<b>NORWAY / NORVÈGE</b>	<b>Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND</b> Research Coordinator Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment  <b>Ms Anita GHOLAMI</b> Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Norway

<b>POLAND / POLOGNE</b>	
<b>PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL</b>	<b>Ms Ana Castela RODRIGUES</b> Senior Officer, International Relations Department of the Ministry of Environment and Energy
<b>ROMANIA / ROUMANIE</b>	
<b>SAN MARINO / Saint-Marin</b>	
<b>SERBIA / SERBIE</b>	
<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE</b>	<b>Ms Andrea POLÁŠEKOVÁ</b> The Director of Legislative Affairs of the Ministry of Environment
<b>SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE</b>	<b>Mr Matija VIDMAR</b> Legal Counsellor
<b>SPAIN / ESPAGNE</b>	<b>Ms Sofía SANZ ESTEBANEZ</b> Senior Advisor for International Affairs
<b>SWEDEN / SUÈDE</b>	<b>Ms Gabriella MODIN</b> Legal advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise
<b>SWITZERLAND / SUISSE</b>	<b>Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER</b> Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV)  <b>Dr. iur. Maya BEELER-SIGRON, LL.M.</b> Jurist, International Human Rights Protection Unit (IMRS), Federal Office of Justice (OFJ)
<b>TÜRKİYE</b>	<b>Ms İrde ÇETİNTÜRK GÜRTEPE</b> Head of Department Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change  <b>Ms Şeyma UÇAR SEÇGEL</b> Expert  <b>Mr Sarp Ege ÖZPİRİNÇİ</b> Deputy to the Permanent Representative
<b>UKRAINE / UKRAINE</b>	
<b>UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI</b>	<b>Ms Isobel COOK</b> Human Rights and Environment Policy Lead, Human Rights Department FCDO, United Kingdom



**PARTICIPANTS /**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

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

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	<p><b>Ms Aurora FLORIDIA</b> Italy Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>Ms Claire DUBOIS-HAMDI</b> <b>Ms Aiste RAMANAUSKAITE</b> Committee of Social Affairs, Public Health and Sustainable Development</p>
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	<p><b>Ms Meropi-Spyridoula YDRAIOU</b> Greece Thematic spokesperson on Environment and climate change</p> <p><b>Ms Stephanie POIREL</b> Head of the Department Protecting Local democracy</p> <p><b>Mr Guillaume LOISEAU</b> 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</p>
European Court of Human Rights	<p><b>Ms Zoë BRYANSTON-CROSS</b> Deputy Head, Office of the President of the Court</p>
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe	<p><b>Mr Andrzej MANCEWICZ</b> Adviser to the Commissioner</p>
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	<p><b>Ms Amy JACOBSEN</b> Greenpeace International, on behalf of the INGO Conference</p> <p><b>Mr Dirk GOTZMANN</b> Civilscape, on behalf of the INGO Conference</p>
Council of Europe Development Bank	<p><b>Mr Tomáš BOČEK</b> Vice-Governor</p> <p><b>Ms Tanja FALLER</b> Director of the Technical Assessment and Monitoring Directorate</p> <p><b>Ms Christiane SCHIMECK</b> Executive Secretary of the Partial Agreement on the Council of Europe Development Bank</p>

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

Bern Convention	<p><b>Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (also representative of Estonia)</b> Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate Outgoing Chair of the Bern Convention Standing Committee</p> <p><b>Mr Jose AMENGUAL</b> Policy Advisor</p>
CDADI	<p><b>Ms Cristina MILAGRE</b> Policy Adviser</p>
CDPC	<p><b>Ms Eva PASTRANA</b> Head of Division</p> <p><b>Mr Radu PANTIRU,</b> Criminal Law (CDPC)</p> <p><b>Ms Maeve BUCHIGNANI</b> Trainee</p>
CDDH	<p><b>Dr Nicola WENZEL, LL.M.</b> Chairperson CDDH-ENV Head of Human Rights Division Agent before the European Court of Human Rights Federal Ministry of Justice, Germany</p> <p><b>Mr David MILNER</b> Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division</p>
CDEDU	<p><b>Ms Helena KRUDER</b> Trainee</p>
GEC	<p><b>Ms Roza Bella CSÉBY</b> Gender Equality Policies</p>
ECSR	<p><b>Ms Aoife NOLAN</b> Chair of the ECSR</p> <p><b>Ms Diana BALANESCU</b> Collective Complaints Division</p>
EUR-OPA	<p><b>Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN</b> Executive Secretary</p>
Landscape Convention	<p><b>Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER (also representative for Switzerland)</b> Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV)</p>
Advisory Council on Youth	<p><b>Ms Agni GKOUTZIAMANI</b> Youth and Environment Europe – YEE on the CCJ</p> <p><b>Mr Jannis GUSTKE</b> International Young Nature Friends – IYNF on the CCJ</p> <p><b>Mr Sean Currie</b></p>

	<p>Federation of Young European Greens – FYEG on CCJ</p> <p><b>Ms Clementina BARBARO</b> Head of Division</p> <p><b>Ms Krystina JELINKOVA</b> Youth Policy</p> <p><b>Ms Anna-Sophie DIEDRICH</b> Trainee</p>
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**OBSERVER STATES TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE /**  
*OBSERVATEURS PERMANENTS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE*

<b>CANADA</b>	
<b>HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE</b>	<b>Mr Nicolas BAUER</b> Représentant
<b>JAPAN / JAPON</b>	
<b>MEXICO / MEXIQUE</b>	<b>Ms Eva PIZANO CEJKA</b> Deputy to the Permanent Observer
<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ETATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE</b>	

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

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

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS /**  
*ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES*

The United Nations and its agencies	OHCHR	<b>Ms Nela CERNOTA</b> Associate Human Rights Officer
	UNFCCC	<b>Ms Aiping CHEN (online)</b> Special Assistant to the Senior Director Programmes Coordination division
IUCN		<b>Ms Agnes MICHELOT</b>

	Professeure des universités, membre du Steering Committee WCEL IUCN
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## OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

Organisation	Nominated representative
World Wide Fund for Nature	
Youth and Environment Europe	<b>Ms Emma PAGLIARUSCO</b> Advocacy Coordinator at Youth and Environment Europe.
International Young Nature Friends	
ClientEarth	<b>Ms Malgorzata KWIEDACZ-PALOSZ</b> Senior Fundamental Rights Lawyer, Just Societies
Greenpeace	<b>Mr Rodrigo ESTRADA PATIÑO</b> Acting Program Director / Directeur intérimaire des programmes Greenpeace Canada
Wild Legal	<b>Mr Vincent DELBOS</b> Membre Wild Legal, expert et magistrat honoraire
Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime	
Wildlife Justice Commission	<b>Ms Joanna CHOBLET (online)</b> External Relations Officer
European network of national human rights institutions	
Amnesty International	<b>Ms Ann HARRISON</b> Climate Justice Researcher and Policy Advisor
International Commission of Jurists	
International Federation of Human Rights	<b>Ms Maddalena Neglia (online)</b> Director of the Business Human Rights and environment office
Center for International Environmental Law	<b>Mr Sebastien DUYCK</b> Senior Attorney
Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment	<b>Ms Corina HERI</b> Deputy Director for Europe
Green Rights Coalition	<b>Ms Juliette DESSAGNE</b> <b>Ms Ambre ZWETYENGA</b> Advocacy assistants

## SPEAKERS / INTERVENANTS

Name	Organisation
<b>Mr Callum HEDDERMAN</b> (online)	European youth forum
<b>Ms Mariama DIALLO</b>	Child Friendly Justice – European Network
<b>Mr Benjamin VAN BUNDEREN ROBBERECHTS</b>	Child Friendly Justice – European Network
<b>Ms Ioana MIHAILESCU</b> (online)	Child Friendly Justice – European Network

**SECRETARIAT /**  
**SECRÉTARIAT**

Name	Position
<b>Mr Rafael BENITEZ</b>	Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment
<b>Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI</b>	Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
<b>Mr Mikaël POUTIERS</b>	Co-Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
<b>Mr Michaël NGUYEN</b>	Administrative and Project Officer, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment
<b>Ms Jenny MITCALF</b>	Administrative Support Assistant, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment
<b>Ms Irina SPOIALA</b>	Administrative Assistant, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment
<b>Ms Ines CARTER</b>	Trainee, Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment

APPENDIX III

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
11–13 February 2025  
Council of Europe – Agora - Room G03  
(opening at 9.30 on 11 February and closing at 17.30 on 13 February 2025)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the GME
2. Adoption of the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GME meeting, and of the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
[GME(2025)OJ3prov, GME(2025)OJan3prov, GME(2024)R2prov]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
4. Preparation of a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment  
[GME(2024)10rev]
5. Any other business
6. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the 4<sup>th</sup> GME meeting  
[GME(2025)OJ4prov]
7. Adoption of the abridged report  
[GME(2025)AR3prov]