

Strasbourg, 28/10/2024

GME(2024)R1

AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT (GME)

1st meeting
25–27 September 2024

MEETING REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 1st meeting in Strasbourg on 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. He welcomed participants and introduced the team working on environmental initiatives. He highlighted the Council of Europe's strengthened mandate to prioritise environmental work, following the Reykjavik Summit, emphasising the development of a new strategy on the environment and key conventions like the Bern and Florence Conventions, or the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, which focus on nature conservation, landscape, disaster prevention and preparedness, and the link between human rights and the environment.

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law delivered a statement to the GME. He emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. He highlighted the Council of Europe's commitment to preparing a Strategy on the Environment, advancing legal frameworks linking human rights and environmental protection, and the importance of coordinated efforts to address environmental degradation, with key decisions expected at the May 2025 ministerial session.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The GME adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I.

3. ROUND TABLE OF PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants had the chance to introduce themselves and get to know each other. It was noted that a number of member states were still in the process of designating their representatives, but that the Permanent Representations were ensuring their country's participation in the meantime. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND BUREAU MEMBERS OF THE GME

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 Resolution CM/res(2021)3. It was however noted that there is no gender balance in the Bureau composition as all 5 are women, due to the lack of men's candidacies. Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU (Greece) took over the Chair of this meeting during the third day (27/09/2024).

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GME

The Secretariat presented the Terms of reference of the ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 10 July 2024. The main deliverable is the preparation of a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related Action Plan, in time for adoption at the 134th ministerial session of the Committee of Ministers to be held in May 2025 under the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The GME took note of the terms of reference, mandate, deliverables and deadlines as set out in document GME(2024)1. It was however noted that the timeframe for the deliverables is quite short.

6. DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Representatives of different Council of Europe bodies and organisms presented the developments in their sectors of activities with links to the environment. The GME took note of these related developments in the Council of Europe.

7. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE STEERING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

The GME held an exchange of views with the Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH), Ms Krista OINONEN. She presented the role of the CDDH in the Council of Europe and gave a short overview of its previous and pending activities, notably the feasibility study of a further Council of Europe instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment. Ms Krista OINONEN noted that the CDDH is expected to adopt the feasibility study and an opinion at its next meeting (26-29 November 2024).

8. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE CHAIR OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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. He presented the main activities of the Committee and the Parliamentary Assembly. It was recalled that the Parliamentary Assembly had adopted several resolutions and recommendations of particular relevance for the work of the GME. He notably mentioned two reports and recommendations that would be presented for adoption in the following Parliamentary Assembly sessions, on the right to healthy food and young people's mental health. He noted how the triple planetary crisis affects the daily life of the youth and causes them anxiety and loss of a clear outlook onto their future.

The interventions of Ms. Krista OINONEN and Mr. Simon MOUTQUIN were followed by an interesting and lively debate with the participants. Multiple questions were raised including how the GME will interact with the CDDH and the Parliamentary Assembly in their future work, to which a close cooperation between the three was encouraged.

9. COMPENDIUM OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Secretariat presented the Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment (the Compendium) (document [GME\(2024\)2](#)) and explained the strategic triangle of the council of Europe. The Secretariat assured the GME that the document will be updated for the 2nd meeting of the group. The GME considered the Compendium of the Council of Europe activities on the environment.

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

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. The contributions received raised several key issues, namely the link between human rights and the environment, different environmental challenges faced by countries (like waste management, water and air quality, loss of biodiversity, etc), the challenges of implementing climate and biodiversity policies, the importance of international cooperation, and how protecting human rights and democracy can also have a positive effect on combating environmental crisis. Delegations were invited to submit additional written contributions to the Secretariat (GME@coe.int) by 11 October 2024.

11. PREPARATION OF A COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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 (document [GME\(2024\)2](#)). The participants raised the issue of the scope of the consultation on the strategy, its financial feasibility and coordination with other bodies and committees of the Council of Europe in order to clearly define roles within the organisation. A reoccurring point was the upcoming feasibility study from CDDH and using a placeholder in the strategy while the final report on the study is still pending. Consultation with youth and civil society was widely encouraged. 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.

12. REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS TO THE GME

The Secretariat presented the requests for observer status to the GME from the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE) and the Green Rights Coalition. The GME considered the requests as set out respectively in documents [GME\(2024\)7](#), [GME\(2024\)8](#), [GME\(2024\)9](#), decided by unanimity to grant them observer status and invited them to the hearing which will be held at its next meeting.

13. PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The GME decided to hold its 2nd meeting in Strasbourg, on 9-11 December 2024. It was noted that the end of the year is a very busy period for environmental experts who already have multiple commitments to participate in meeting from other international organisations. However, the dates were chosen to avoid clashes with other important activities within and outside the Council of Europe, like the Bern Convention Standing Committee, COP 29 or the CDDH meeting. The GME 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.

14. 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 and noted that although the decision is not finalised, it is now clear that the EU will propose to downgrade the protection status of the wolf. She added that the Bern Standing Committee will discuss this issue during the December meeting. The Secretariat also provided an update regarding the activities of the Landscape Convention, and assured the GME that the scheduled activities linked to the Landscape Convention will take place as planned, and that the Council of Europe is fully invested in relaunching the landscape work.

15. ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT

The GME adopted an abridged report of the meeting, as set out in Appendix IV ([GME\(2024\)AR1](#)).

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 IV – Abridged report of the 1st 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	Ms Sophie THYS Legal policy advisor International and European policy for the Flemish Department of Environmental and Spatial Development Ms Leen CHANET (apologised/excusée) Legal policy advisor International policy for the Flemish Department of Environmental and Spatial Development
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE & HERZEGOVINE	

BULGARIA / BULGARIE	
CROATIA / CROATIE	
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	Mr Kostas PSEVDIOTIS Deputy Permanent Representative
CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	Dr Pavel HLAVACEK Officer Department of International Relations, Ministry of Environment Ms Kornélie GATICA GRONSKÁ (apologised/excusée) Deputy to the Permanent Representative
DENMARK / DANEMARK	Ms Cornelia SIGRID ALBRECHTSEN (apologised/excusée) Mr Tomas KØNIGSFELDT (apologised/excusée) Mr Lars VOLCK MADSEN (apologised/excusé) Ms Hélène FESTER (apologised/excusée) Danish Ministry of Foreign Affair
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate
FINLAND / FINLANDE	Ms Charlotta VON TROIL Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Unit for International and EU Affairs
FRANCE	Ms Charlotte BLONDEL Legal Adviser at the Human Rights Sub-Directorate, Directorate of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	Ms Nino LATSABIDZE Deputy Head of International Relations and European Integration Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	Ms Heike THIELE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ms Friederike STEGLICH Deputy Permanent Representative Mr Thomas LAUT Deputy to the Permanent Representative Ms Bettina KOHLER Deputy to the Permanent Representative
GREECE / GRÈCE	Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU Ambassador,

	<p>Head of Directorate for the Protection of Environment, Climate Change and World Politics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,</p> <p>Ms Aliko 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	<p>Ms Reda SKIRKEVIČIŪTĖ Counsellor of Legal division of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania</p>
LUXEMBOURG	<p>Mr Tom SCHRAM Head of the Directorate for European and International Affairs Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity</p>

MALTA / MALTE	
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	<p>Mr Nicolae COSLET Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p> <p>Mr Andrei URSU Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
MONACO	<p>Ms Céline VAN KLAVEREN-IMPAGLIAZZO (apologised/excusée) Head of Division at the Department of External Relations and Cooperation</p> <p>Ms Margaux GIRARDIN Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe</p>
MONTENEGRO	<p>Mr Milos NIKOLIC Director Directorate for the OSCE and the Council of Europe Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro</p> <p>Ms Brankica CMILJANOVIĆ (apologised/excusée) Director of Directorate for improvement of environment Ministry of Ecology Sustainable Development and Development of the North</p>
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	<p>Ms Michelle DUIN Legal Officer at the International Law Division Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD	
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	<p>Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND (apologised/excusé) Research Coordinator Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment</p> <p>Ms Anita GHOLAMI Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Norway</p> <p>Ms Kamilla SVENDSBY Study visitor at the Permanent Representation</p>
POLAND / POLOGNE	<p>Ms Katarzyna KANIA Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p> <p>Ms Iwona MARCZYK-STĘPNIEWSKA Deputy to the Permanent Representative</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>Ms Maria João Frade TEIXEIRA Senior Officer, International Relations Department of the Ministry of Environment and Energy</p> <p>Ms Ana Castela RODRIGUES (apologised/excusée)</p>

	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)
TÜRKİYE	Ms İrde ÇETİNTÜRK GÜRTEPE Head of Department Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Ms Şeyma UÇAR SEÇGEL Expert Ms Gülriz ÇINAR BERKİN (apologised/excusée) Expert Mr Sarp Ege ÖZPİRİNÇİ Deputy to the Permanent Representative
UKRAINE	Mr Iaroslav ZHYDENKO Deputy to the Permanent Representative

UNITED KINGDOM / <i>ROYAUME-UNI</i>	Ms Eva HUEHNE (apologised/<i>excusée</i>) Senior Lawyer International Environment, Marine and Fisheries Defra Legal Advisers, Government Legal Department Ms Isobel COOK Human Rights and Environment Policy Lead, Human Rights Department FCDO, United Kingdom Mr Mark GOREY Deputy to the Permanent Representative
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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 Secretariat of the 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 Chair of the Bern Convention Standing Committee
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 Secretariat of the Gender Equality Commission
ECSR	Ms Diana BALANESCU Ms Kamile MICHAILOVSKYTE Secretariat of the European Charter of Social Rights
EUR-OPA	Ms Ana FREITAS National Authority for Civil Protection of Portugal Former Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, Permanent Chair in respect of Portugal Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA
Landscape Convention	Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER (also representative for Switzerland) Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV) Member of the Conference of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention
PC-ENV	
Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)	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 Representative Ms Caterina PAPALIA
JAPAN / JAPON	
MEXICO / MEXIQUE	Ms Lydia ANTONIO (apologised/excusée) Deputy Permanent Observer Ms Eva PIZANO CEJKA Deputy to the Permanent Observer

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/excused) Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change Team Ms Nela CERNOTA (apologised/excused)
	UNDESA	
	UNEP	
The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)		
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)		Mr 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]

APPENDIX IV

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.