



EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
1950 - 2025

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 04/12/2025

GME(2025)AR5

AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT (GME)

5th meeting
2-4 December 2025

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 5th and last meeting in Strasbourg on 2-4 December 2025. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU and Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN.
2. The GME adopted the report of the 4th GME meeting and the agenda of the 5th meeting as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
3. The GME took note of the statement of Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, regarding developments in the Council of Europe of interest for the GME, namely the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers at their ministerial session in Luxembourg, 14 May 2025 and follow-up including the establishment of a Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV). The GME was also informed about the outcome of the Ministerial Conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (Florence, 27-28 October 2025), Council of Europe's involvement in the UN Climate Change Conference – COP30 (Belém, Brazil, November 2025), and Congress Recommendation 536 (2025) “An additional protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment.”
4. The Chair of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention, Mr Carl AMIRGULASHVILI, updated the GME on the upcoming 45th Standing Committee meeting and on ongoing activities relevant to the future work of the CDENV.
5. The GME was informed by the Secretariat of the execution of judgements of the European Court for Human Rights related to environment.
6. The GME examined the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and adopted the draft Progress Report and took note of the updated Action Plan as they appear in Appendices III and IV.
7. The GME was informed of the preparations of the 1st European Forum for Environmental Human Rights Defenders to be held at the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg on 3-4 June 2026.
8. The GME held a preliminary exchange of views regarding the UN Climate Change Conference – COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, November 2026).

9. The GME held a thematic discussion on “Human Rights and Climate Disinformation” with the participation of representatives of member States, international organisations, NGOs and representatives of other Council of Europe entities, see programme in Appendix V.
10. Ms Michelle DUIN, in her capacity as GME Gender Equality rapporteur, delivered a presentation on gender equality in the work of the GME.
11. The GME highlighted the important contribution which the observers made to the work of the GME and supported their inclusion, subject to request, in the CDENV. The GME was informed of the procedure for submitting a request for observer status interested observers were invited to submit requests to the attention of the Secretary General by email to environment@coe.int as soon as possible.
12. The Chair thanked members of the Committee for their valuable contribution through the existence of the Committee which allowed the Committee to deliver on its mandate and called on members to continue the cooperation within the remit of the CDENV and to facilitate the transition between the GME and the CDENV.
13. The GME adopted the present abridged report and agreed to adopt the report of the 5th GME meeting through written procedure.

Appendix I – Agenda

Appendix II – List of Participants

Appendix III – Draft Progress Report on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment

Appendix IV – Updated Action Plan on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on Environment

Appendix V – Programme of the Thematic discussion on Human Rights and Climate Disinformation

APPENDIX I

AGENDA of the 5th meeting of the GME

2-4 December 2025

Council of Europe – Agora – G03

(opening at 9.30 on Tuesday 2 December and closing at 12.30 on Thursday 4 December 2025)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the GME
2. Adoption of the report of the 4th GME meeting and of the agenda of the 5th meeting
[[GME\(2025\)R4prov](#), GME(2025)OJ5prov]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
 - 3.1. Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers further to the ministerial session in Luxembourg, 14 May 2025, including the establishment of a Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV)
[[GME\(2025\)10](#)]
 - 3.2. Informal Ministerial Conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (Florence, 27-28 October 2025)
[[T-FC \(2025\) CONF 5 E](#)]
 - 3.3. UN Climate Change Conference – COP30 (Belém, Brazil, November 2025)
[[GME\(2025\)11](#)]
 - 3.4. Congress Recommendation 536 (2025) “An additional protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment”
[[REC 536 \(2025\)](#), [CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1544/12.1](#)]
4. State of play of the execution of judgements of the European Court for Human Rights related to environment
[[GME\(2025\)09](#)]
5. Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment
[[CM\(2025\)51-final](#)]
 - 5.1. Progress report
[[GME\(2025\)07prov](#)]
 - 5.2. Action Plan
[[GME\(2025\)08prov](#)]
6. 1st European Forum for Environmental Human Rights Defenders (3-4 June 2026)
7. UN Climate Change Conference – COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, November 2026)
8. Thematic discussion “Human Rights and Climate disinformation” (see separate programme in Annex I)
[[GME\(2025\)06](#)]
9. Consideration of gender equality in the work of the GME
10. Any other business
11. Adoption of the abridged report
[GME(2025)AR5prov]

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE	
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Mr Carlos PUENTE GALINDO Legal Adviser - Third Secretary Ms Charlène VIGNAIS (online/en ligne) Third Secretary
ARMENIA / ARMENIE	Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia Ms Kristine KHACHATRYAN Ministry of Environment
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN	Ms Rugiyya MALIKOVA Second Secretary, Department for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Ms Sophie THYS (online/en ligne) Legal Policy Advisor
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE & HERZEGOVINE	
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	
CROATIA / CROATIE	
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	
CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	Ms Barbora CHRPOVA (online/en ligne) Officer
DENMARK / DANEMARK	
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	
FINLAND / FINLANDE	Ms Anna Charlotta VON TROIL (online/en ligne) Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Unit for International and EU Affairs

FRANCE	Ms Sarah BARNIER-LEROY Legal Adviser, Directorate of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	Ms Tamta CHANKSELIANI (online/en ligne) Senior Specialist
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	Ms Mareike WELKE Deputy Head of Unit / Bilateral Cooperation with EU/EFTA Member States and the UK
GREECE / GRÈCE	Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU Ambassador, Head of Directorate for the Protection of Environment, Climate Change and World Politics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Aliko GKANA Rapporteur Legal Department Public International Law Section Ministry of Foreign Affairs
HUNGARY / HONGRIE	
ICELAND / ISLANDE	Ms Brynhildur SÖRENSEN (online/en ligne) Specialist
IRELAND / IRLANDE	Mr Andrew MALONE (online/en ligne) Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
ITALY / ITALIE	Ms Laura MESSINA Official
LATVIA / LETTONIE	Ms Anita TOCA Climate Change Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Latvia to the European Union
LIECHTENSTEIN	Mr Fabian RITTER (online/en ligne) Diplomatic Officer
LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	Ms Inga AKSAMITAUSKAITĖ (online/en ligne) Advisor of the Group of the Environment protection policy coordination at the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania
LUXEMBOURG	Ms Svenja STOLTZ (online/en ligne) Jurist
MALTA / MALTE	Mr Jake AGIUS (online/en ligne) Manager

	Ms Paula AXIAK (online/en ligne) Unit Manager – Legal Affairs Mr Steve BORG (online/en ligne) Legal Officer Ms Sarah Jane ELLUL (online/en ligne)
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Ms Mariana COVIC Head of Financial and administrative Direction Ministry of Environment
MONACO	Ms Céline IMPAGLIAZZO (online/en ligne) Chargé de Mission Mr Gabriel CHABERT Deputy to the Permanent Representative
MONTENEGRO	Ms Brankica CMILJANOVIC (online/en ligne) Head of Directorate of environmental enhancement
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	Ms Michelle DUIN (online/en ligne) Legal Officer at the International Law Division Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Sara VAN DEN BOOM Legal officer
NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD	
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND (online/en ligne) Research Coordinator Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
POLAND / POLOGNE	Mr Jan SZYDLO (online/en ligne) Specialist
PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL	Ms Ana CASTELA RODRIGUES Senior Advisor
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	Ms Caterina NEAGU Adviser
SAN MARINO / SAINT MARIN	
SERBIA / SERBIE	Mr Darko NINKOV Counsellor at the Sector for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	
SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	

SPAIN / ESPAGNE	
SWEDEN / SUÈDE	
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	Mr Sébastien TRUFFER Chef de section suppléant Ms Maya BEELER-SIGRON (online/en ligne) Jurist Ms Andréa PAULUS (online/en ligne) Student
TÜRKIYE	
UKRAINE / UKRAINE	
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	Ms Isobel COOK Human Rights and Environment Policy Lead, Human Rights Department FCDO, United Kingdom Mr Adam LAVIS Environmental Rights Lead

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

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	
European Court of Human Rights	
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe	
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	Ms Małgorzata KWIĘDACZ-PALOSZ Senior Lawyer, ClientEarth
Council of Europe Development Bank	

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

Bern Convention	Mr Carl AMIRGULASHVILI President of the Bern Convention Standing Committee
CDEDU	
CDENF	
CDPC	Mr Šimon PEPŘÍK, Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV)
CPT	
ECSR	
GEC	
EUR-OPA	
Advisory Council on Youth / CCJ	Mr Sean CURRIE Member of the Advisory Council on Youth Federation of Young European Greens

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

CANADA	
HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE	Mr Nicolas BAUER Représentant
JAPAN / JAPON	
MEXICO / MEXIQUE	
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	Ms Sabria BNOUNI Directrice Générale de la Coopération Internationale Ministère de l'Environnement

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS /**ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

The United Nations and its agencies	OHCHR	Ms Sonia CUESTA (online/en ligne) Human Rights Officer Ms Carla Margarita LICHTBLAU (online/en ligne) Intern
	UNFCCC	
IUCN		Ms Agnes MICHELOT (online/en ligne) Professeure des universités, membre du Steering Committee WCEL IUCN

**OBSERVERS /
OBSERVATEURS**

Organisation	Nominated representative
World Wide Fund for Nature	
Youth and Environment Europe	Mr Alexandros KASSAPIS (online/en ligne) Advocacy Manager Ms Priscila MALLMANN BIANCHETTI (online/en ligne) Liaison Officer Ms Pola ZABUSKA (online/en ligne) Liaison Officer Mr Ippokartis TSVERNIS (online/en ligne) Liaison Officer
International Young Nature Friends	
ClientEarth	
Greenpeace	Ms Laura VAN TAMELEN Senior Political Strategist Mr Simon MOUTQUIN Advocacy Officer
Wild Legal	Ms Marine CALMET (online/en ligne) President Ms Emma Juliette MARC (online/en ligne) Legal Expert
Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime	
Wildlife Justice Commission	Ms Lea LUXEMBOURGER (online/en ligne) Policy Officer
European network of national human rights institutions	
Amnesty International	Ms Ann HARRISON (online/en ligne) Climate Justice Researcher and Policy Advisor
International Commission of Jurists	
International Federation of Human Rights	Ms Lucia POSTERARO (online/en ligne) Business, Human Rights & Environment Desk
Center for International Environmental Law	Mr Sebastien DUYCK Senior Attorney

	Ms Camilla POLLERA (online/en ligne) Programme Associate
Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment	Ms Corina HERI (online/en ligne) Deputy Director for Europe Ms Annalisa SAVARESI (online/en ligne) Professor
Green Rights Coalition	Ms Sarah BATELLIER Volunteer

SPEAKERS / ORATEURS

Name	Department
Dr Elisa Morgera	UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change
Ms Maryna Yanush	Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE
Mr Jeremy Herry	Information and Communication Officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission
Ms Eva MOREL	General Secretary of QuotaClimat

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

Name	Department
Ms Tara BEATTIE	Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Adviser
Ms Claire DUBOIS-HAMDI	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Committee of Social Affairs, Public Health and Sustainable Development
Ms Aiste RAMANAUSKAITE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Committee of Social Affairs, Public Health and Sustainable Development
Elvana THAÇI	Tromsø Convention Head of the Unit
Ms Eva PASTRANA	CDPC Head of the Criminal Law Division

Mr Hugo DAMAGGIO	CDPC Administrative Assistant
Mr Patrice WEBER	CPT Head of Communication and Information Unit
Ms Diana BALANESCU	ECSR Collective Complaints Division
Ms Caroline MARTIN	Landscape Convention Secretary
Mr Ottavio DI BELLA	Landscape Convention Policy Advisor
Ms Emma GARNIER CARREL	Landscape Convention Administrative Assistant
Ms Emma WILLIAMS	ECtHR Trainee
Mr Rafael BENITEZ	Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment
Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI	GME Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
Ms Nino LATSABIDZE	GME Policy Advisor
Ms Jenny MITCALF	GME Administrative Support Assistant
Ms Irina SPOIALA	GME Administrative Assistant

APPENDIX III

DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT

[GME\(2025\)07](#)

APPENDIX IV

UPDATED ACTION PLAN

[GME\(2025\)08](#)

APPENDIX V

PROGRAMME OF THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE
DISINFORMATION**Thematic Debate on Human Rights and Climate disinformation**

Thursday 4 December 2025, 9.30-12.00

Council of Europe – Agora – G03

09:30 - 09:35 | Introduction to the Thematic Debate

- Mr Rafael Benitez, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe

09:35 - 10:15 | International Mechanisms and Initiatives to Strengthen Research and Responses to Climate Disinformation, and Advancing the Issue on the global agenda at the UN Climate Conference COP30 *(5-minute per speech followed by Q&A)*

Speakers:

- Dr Elisa Morgera, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change
- Ms Maryna Yanush, Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE
- Mr Jeremy Herry, Information and Communication Officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission
- Ms Mareike Welke, Representative of Germany in the GME

10:15 - 10:45 | Council of Europe Tools and Mechanisms to Address Climate Disinformation: Current Challenges and Effective Responses *(5-minute per speech followed by Q&A)*

Speakers:

- Ms Tara Beattie, Adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms Elvana Thaçi, Head of the Tromsø Convention Unit, Council of Europe

10:45 - 11:05 | Coffee break**11:05 - 11:55 | The Role of Civil Society, including Environmental Human Rights Defenders and Youth, in Identifying and Countering Climate Disinformation** *(5-minute per speech followed by Q&A)*

Speakers:

- Ms Eva Morel, General Secretary of QuotaClimat
- Mr Simon Moutquin, former Member of Parliament and member of the parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Civil society representative
- Mr Sébastien Duyck, Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Ms Priscila Bianchetti, Liaison Officer on Just Transition and Resource Justice, Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)
- Ms Małgorzata Kwiędacz-Palosz, Senior Lawyer at ClientEarth, representative of the Council of Europe Conference of International NGOs

11:55 - 12:00 | Conclusion