



EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
1950 - 2025 **75**



Strasbourg, 04/12/2025

GME(2025)R4

AD HOC MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT (GME)

4th meeting
10-12 March 2025

MEETING REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR OF THE GME

The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 4th meeting in Strasbourg on 10-12 March 2025. The Chair, Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 3rd GME MEETING AND OF THE AGENDA OF THE 4th MEETING

The GME adopted the report of the 3rd meeting (GME(2025)R3) and the agenda of the 4th meeting, as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants is in Appendix II.

3. DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Mr Rafael BENITEZ, Director of Social Rights, Health and the Environment, informed the GME that the Parliamentary Assembly, in cooperation with the delegations of Belgium and Luxembourg, had hosted a conference on "[The role of national parliaments in protecting the right to a healthy environment](#)" in Luxembourg on 14 February 2025, and that the GME has been represented by its Vice-Chair, Ms Charlotte BLONDEL.

Ms Charlotte BLONDEL explained that during the Luxembourg conference, she had taken part in a panel on current Council of Europe initiatives related to the environment, during which she had presented the work of the GME in the context of the Reykjavik process, the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and its objectives, and the prospective establishment of an intergovernmental Committee on the Environment.

The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Aurora FLORIDIA, who was also present in Luxembourg as President of the Network for a Healthy Environment, emphasised the need for a link between the work of the Council of Europe and that of parliamentarians.

Mr BENITEZ briefed the GME on the preparation of the Ministerial Session to be held in Luxembourg in May 2025, which will include an important package on environment related matters comprising the draft [Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law](#), which was ready for adoption, and the Council of Europe (CoE) draft Strategy on the Environment, both of which are expected to be adopted during this forthcoming Ministerial Session.

Ms Eva PASTRANA, Head of the Criminal Law Division (CDPC) also noted the progress of the draft Convention on the protection of the Environment through criminal law. Participants were encouraged to support efforts to promote the signing and ratification of the Convention in their respective countries once it is adopted. It was noted that discussions are ongoing with European Union partners, including representatives from DG Justice and DG Environment, who actively participated in the draft Convention's negotiations. Ms PASTRANA further underlined that in order to ensure its implementation, the Convention needs at least ten ratifications, of which at least eight have to be member States of the Council of Europe.

Mr BENITEZ also highlighted that a Ministerial Conference will be hosted by the Italian authorities in Florence on 27-28 October 2025 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Landscape Convention.

Mr BENITEZ updated the GME on the study on the need and feasibility of a further instrument or instruments on human rights and the environment prepared by the CDDH Drafting Group on Human Rights and the Environment ([CDDH-ENV](#)). The report was presented to the Committee of Minister on two occasions and discussions have started within the Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H). The GR-H asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper on the nature and scope of the right and the best way forward.

Mr BENITEZ further noted the possibility for the GR-H to discuss a potential decision regarding the continuation of the GME's work on environment within the Council of Europe as a follow-up to the Reykjavik Declaration, which calls for the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on the environment within the Council of Europe.

4. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms Elda MORENO, Special Advisor on the Environment, presented to the GME the new draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (see Appendix III), which was revised on the basis of the comments submitted following the 3rd meeting in February 2025.

Ms MORENO presented the latest revised version of the draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (document GME(2025)4) and referred to the background information contained in the document, which explained the approach followed by the Secretariat to prepare the draft, taking into account all the comments received from the GME (document GME(2025)3). The draft mirrors other Council of Europe transversal strategies. Descriptions of environmental challenges and actions were eliminated and replaced by footnotes referencing relevant sources. Agreed language was privileged and objectives were clustered into a smaller number of goals and objectives focusing on Council of Europe's expertise and added value.

Some of the comments and amendments received were not included in the revised draft, especially in cases where the comments went against the nature of a policy document, where it risked the balance of the document by focusing too much on a select number of issues, or policies, and lastly, when the changes went against already existing legally binding standards.

The GME expressed their overall appreciation for the revised draft, welcoming the work that has been done by the Secretariat since the last meeting. The content and structure of the Strategy were extensively discussed, reviewed and commented on.

Calls for further integration of the child rights perspective in the Strategy were reiterated, in order to create a comprehensive framework.

Some member States indicated that certain word formulations or paragraphs were not acceptable to them in their present form. Among some of the main points of discussion were: the question of a political or legal recognition of the right to a healthy environment, with NGOs showing strong support for including references to the legal recognition of this right in the text of the draft Strategy, and the inclusion or deletion of the reference to extraterritoriality, with several member States requesting to

add reservation to certain paragraphs of the draft Strategy in the footnotes.

Member States, participants and observers to the GME were invited to send their further proposals regarding the revised draft Strategy to the Secretariat (at GME@coe.int), and preferably limiting them to issues of major importance, as soon as possible, and no later than 13th of March 2025.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN RELATED TO THE DRAFT COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms MORENO presented the draft Action Plan related to the revised draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (document GME(2025)5) (see Appendix IV). The draft Action Plan was prepared in accordance with the strategic objectives agreed by the GME at its 3rd meeting in February 2025, in order to ensure coherence between the two texts.

It was emphasised that the Action Plan will be a living document and the GME were invited to consider and take note of the Action Plan in its present form with a view to its submission to the Committee of Ministers in Luxembourg in May 2025.

The GME expressed their overall appreciation for the draft Action Plan. The text of the draft Action Plan was extensively discussed and commented on.

The GME requested further clarification regarding the adoption of the Action Plan. Mr BENITEZ explained that, unlike the Strategy, the GME was only requested to take note of the draft Action Plan and to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for consideration in accordance with its terms of reference. It was also reiterated that it was a living document and would change over time, particularly in the context of the program and budget discussions that would take place in the second half of 2025.

It was also pointed out that the Action Plan includes activities in which the GME, as an intergovernmental committee, has no decision-making power or specific role to play. The activities carried out, as an example, by the Parliamentary Assembly or the Congress, were activities of the self-governing bodies of the Council of Europe, with sole decision-making power on the matter. These activities were mentioned for information in similar fashion to how they had been presented in the Compendium. By the end of the year, the GME will have to prepare an interim report on the implementation of the Strategy as a whole, including the activities that have already been carried out.

The GME took note that this document was indicative in nature, recognising that it is a dynamic document that will change over time.

Member States, participants and observers to the GME were invited to send their further proposals regarding the draft Action Plan related to the revised draft Strategy to the Secretariat (at GME@coe.int), and preferably limiting them to issues of major importance, as soon as possible, and no later than 13th of March 2025.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. BENITEZ raised the participation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in COP30, which will be held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. He invited representatives of the member States, to consider any possibilities of involving the Council of Europe in any side events or High-level events they may be planning. He specifically highlighted the potential representation of the Council of Europe by the Secretary-General, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, or the President of Congress. Furthermore, Mr. BENITEZ informed the GME that a written call to the member States will be sent following the meeting to formalise this request. The GME exchanged initial ideas on the CoE's participation in COP30.

7. PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE 5th GME MEETING

The GME adopted the preliminary draft agenda for its 5th meeting, which will be held online and in Strasbourg, on 2-4 December 2025, as presented in Appendix V. The GME instructed the Bureau to make a proposal on the length of the meeting.

8. ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT

The GME adopted the abridged report of this 4th meeting as presented in Appendix VI.

Appendix I – Agenda of the 4th meeting of the GME

Appendix II – List of Participants

Appendix III – Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment

Appendix IV – Action Plan related to the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment

Appendix V – Preliminary Draft agenda of the 5th meeting of the GME

Appendix VI – Abridged report of the 4th meeting of the GME

APPENDIX I

AGENDA OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE GME

10–12 March 2025

Council of Europe – Agora - Room G03

(opening at 9.30 on 10 March and closing at 12.30 on 12 March 2025)

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair of the GME
2. Adoption of the report of the 3rd GME meeting, and of the agenda of the 4th meeting
[GME(2025)R3prov, GME(2025)OJ4prov]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
4. Adoption of the draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment
[GME(2025)4]
5. Consideration of the draft Action Plan related to the draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment
[GME(2025)5]
6. Any other business
7. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the 5th GME meeting
[GME(2025)OJ5prov]
8. Adoption of the abridged report
[GME(2025)AR4prov]

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

| | |
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| ALBANIA / ALBANIE | |
| ANDORRA / ANDORRE | Mr Carlos PUENTE GALINDO (online/en ligne) Legal Adviser - Third Secretary |
| ARMENIA / ARMENIE | Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN (online/en ligne) Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia |
| AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE | Mr Matthias KRESINGER (online/en ligne) Department for International Climate, Energy and Environmental Affairs Ministry for Climate Action Austria |
| AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN | Ms Ruziyya MALIKOVA Second Secretary, Department for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan |
| BELGIUM / BELGIQUE | Ms Leen CHANET (online/en ligne) Legal and policy adviser |
| BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE & HERZEGOVINE | |
| BULGARIA / BULGARIE | Mr Kalin ILIEV Head of Department |
| CROATIA / CROATIE | |
| CYPRUS / CHYPRE | |
| CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE | Dr Pavel HLAVACEK Officer Department of International Relations, Ministry of Environment |
| DENMARK / DANEMARK | |
| ESTONIA / ESTONIE | Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (online/en ligne) Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate |
| FINLAND / FINLANDE | Ms Charlotta VON TROIL (online/en ligne) Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Unit for International and EU Affairs |

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| 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 Lasha INAURI (online/en ligne) Head of the International Relations and European Integration Department |
| GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE | Mr Ralph WOLLMAN Presidential offices International Academy Transformation for Environment and Sustainability at UBA (TES Academy) German Environment Agency |
| 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 | Dr Ágnes Anna GÁBOR-HOSSZÚ Head of Unit Department of Environmental Development and Strategy Ministry of Energy |
| 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 (online/ en ligne) Official Ms Laura IACIFANO (online/ en ligne) Officer Ms Valeria GALANTI (online/ en ligne) Officer |
| 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 Mr Moritz RHEINBERGER (online/ en ligne) Legal Officer |

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| LITHUANIA / LITUANIE | Ms Inga AKSAMITAUSKAITĖ Advisor of the Group of the Environment protection policy coordination at the Ministry of Environment 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 | Ms Mariana COVIC Head of Financial and administrative Direction Ministry of Environment |
| MONACO | Ms Céline IMPAGLIAZZO (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Chargé de Mission Ms Margaux GIRARDIN Deputy to the Permanent Representative Mr Gabriel CHABERT Deputy to the Permanent Representative |
| MONTENEGRO | Mr Milos NIKOLIC Director for the OSCE and Council of Europe |
| NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS | Ms Michelle DUIN Legal Officer at the International Law Division Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| NORTH MACEDONIA / MACÉDOINE DU NORD | |
| NORWAY / NORVÈGE | Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND Research Coordinator Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment |
| POLAND / POLOGNE | |
| PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL | Ms Ana CASTELA RODRIGUES Senior Advisor Maria João TEIXEIRA (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Senior Officer Ministry of Environment and Energy Ms Diana BRAS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Intern |
| ROMANIA / ROUMANIE | Ms Caterina NEAGU Adviser |
| SAN MARINO / SAINT MARIN | |

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| SERBIA / SERBIE | Ms Anja KRUŠKA ŠARAC Deputy to the Permanent Representative |
| SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE | Ms Andrea POLASEKOVA Director of Legislative Affairs and Infringements |
| SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE | Ms Ana NOVAK (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Head of Global Challenges Department |
| SPAIN / ESPAGNE | Ms Patricia MOLINA Collaboratrice |
| SWEDEN / SUÈDE | Ms Gabriella MODIN (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Legal advisor, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise |
| SWITZERLAND / SUISSE | Mr Norbert BÄRLOCHER Head of the Rio Conventions Section, Federal Office for the Environment (OFEV) |
| TÜRKIYE | |
| UKRAINE / UKRAINE | Mr Pavlo IVANOV (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Director of the Department of Nature Reserve Fund and Biodiversity Mr Yurii RASIUK (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Head of the Division of Biosafety and Protection, Reproduction of Flora and Fauna of the Department of Nature Reserve Fund and Biodiversity Ms Maryna KROBAN (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation and International Technical Assistance Division of the Department of European Integration, International Cooperation and Circular Economy |
| UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI | Ms Isobel COOK (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Human Rights and Environment Policy Lead, Human Rights Department FCDO, United Kingdom Ms Claire HORTON (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Environmental rights team leader |

PARTICIPANTS /
PARTICIPANTS

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe | <p>Ms Aurora FLORIDIA Italy Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Mr Jacopo DOLBAN Parliamentary Assistant</p> |
| 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 | <p>Ms Ann HARRISON Climate Justice Researcher and Policy Advisor Amnesty International on behalf of the INGO Conference</p> |
| Council of Europe Development Bank | |

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

| | |
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| Bern Convention | <p>Ms Merike LINNAMÄGI (also representative of Estonia) (online/<i>en ligne</i>) Advisor Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of the Climate Outgoing Chair of the Bern Convention Standing Committee</p> |
| Advisory Council on Youth / CCJ | <p>Ms Agni GKOUTZIAMANI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Member of the CCJ</p> |

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

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| CANADA | |
| HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE | Mr Nicolas BAUER Représentant |
| JAPAN / JAPON | |
| MEXICO / MEXIQUE | 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

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| BURKINA FASO | |
| MOROCCO / MAROC | Dr Mostafa MADBOUHI (online/en ligne) Chef de la Division de la Diversité Biologique |
| SENEGAL / SÉNÉGAL | |
| TUNISIA / TUNISIE | Ms Sabria BNOUNI (online/ en ligne) Directrice Générale de la Coopération Internationale Ministère de l'Environnement Mr Heidi CHEBILI Directeur Général |

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| The United Nations and its agencies | OHCHR | Ms Nela CERNOTA (online/en ligne) Associate Human Rights Officer |
| | 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 | Ms Emma PAGLIARUSCO (online/en ligne) Advocacy Coordinator at Youth and Environment Europe. |
| International Young Nature Friends | |
| ClientEarth | Ms Małgorzata KWIĘDACZ-PALOSZ (online/en ligne) Senior Lawyer |
| Greenpeace | Ms Maria Alejandra SERRA (online/en ligne) Legal Counsel Campaigns Mr Richard HARVEY (online/en ligne) Legal Counsel Campaigns Mr Mattia BOSIO (online/en ligne) EU Legal Counsel |
| Wild Legal | Mr Vincent DELBOS Membre Wild Legal, expert et magistrat honoraire Ms Marine CALMET President |
| Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime | Ms Ana MOTAMAYOR (online/en ligne) Policy Advisor |
| Wildlife Justice Commission | |
| European network of national human rights institutions | |
| Amnesty International | Ms Ann HARRISON 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 |
| Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment | Ms Corina HERI (online/en ligne) Deputy Director for Europe |
| Green Rights Coalition | Ms Victoria LICHET (online/en ligne) Executive Director |

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| | Ms Andréa PAULUS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) European Advocacy Associate |
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SECRETARIAT /
SECRETARIAT

| Name | Department |
|---|---|
| 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 |
| Mr Euan RODDIN | Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Head of Statutory Activities Division |
| Ms Helena KRUDER | CDEDU Higher and further Education |
| Ms Katrin UERPMANN | CDENF Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child |
| Ms Magdalena BOCHIŃSKA (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) | CDENF Children's Rights Policies |
| Ms Eva PASTRANA | CDPC Head of the Criminal Law Division |
| Ms Vanessa LAUKANNEN | CDPC Project officer |
| Ms Victorine LOZACH | CDPC Study visitor |
| Mr Patrice WEBER | CPT Head of Communication and Information Unit |
| Ms Gioia SCAPPUCCI | ECSR Head of the Collective Complaints Division |

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| Ms Diana BALANESCU | ECSR Collective Complaints Division |
| Ms Kamilé MICHAÏLOVSKYTĚ | ECSR Lawyer |
| Ms Flurina FREI | GEC Gender Equality Policy Advisor |
| Mr Krzysztof ZYMAN | EUR-OPA Executive Secretary |
| Ms Krystina JELINKOVA | Advisory Council on Youth / CCJ Youth Policy |
| Mr Rafael BENITEZ | Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment |
| Ms Eida MORENO | Special Advisor on Environment |
| Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI | GME Secretary of the Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment |
| Mr Mikaël POUTIERS | GME Co-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 |
| Ms Lilas HEULLANT | GME Trainee |

APPENDIX III

[DRAFT COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY ON THE ENVIRONMENT](#)

as adopted by the GME at its 4th meeting, 10-12 March 2025

APPENDIX IV

[DRAFT ACTION PLAN](#)

as taken note of by the GME at its 4th meeting, 10-12 March 2025, and integrating further suggestions proposed in writing by 13 March 2025

APPENDIX V

PRELIMINARY DRAFT 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, closing at 12.30 on Thursday 4 December 2025)

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
 - 3.2. Informal Ministerial Conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (Florence, 27-28 October 2025)
 - 3.3. UN Climate Change Conference – COP30 (Belém, November 2025)
4. Progress report on the implementation of the Council Europe Strategy on the Environment
5. Thematic discussion “Climate disinformation”
6. Any other business
7. Adoption of the abridged report
[GME(2025)AR5prov]

APPENDIX VI

ABRIDGED REPORT OF THE 4th GME MEETING

10–12 March 2025

1. The Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) held its 4th meeting in Strasbourg on 10-12 March 2025. The meeting was chaired by Ms Maria DIAMANTOPOULOU.
2. The GME adopted the report of the 3rd GME meeting and the agenda of the 4th 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, in particular the state of preparation of the environment related decisions for the Committee of Ministers ministerial session in Luxembourg on 14 May 2025.
4. The GME examined and adopted the draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment as it appears in Appendix III, and agreed to submit it to the Committee of Ministers in pursuance of its Terms of Reference.
5. The GME examined a preliminary draft of the Action Plan, took note of the fact that the text is a living document, and instructed the Secretariat to update it following comments made at the meeting and received by email by Thursday 13 March 2025. It agreed to transmit the draft Action Plan as it appears in Appendix IV to the Committee of Ministers in pursuance of its Terms of Reference.
6. The GME decided to hold its 5th meeting in hybrid format, online and in Strasbourg, on 2-4 December 2025, and adopted the preliminary draft agenda as set out in Appendix V. The GME instructed the Bureau to make a proposal on the length of the meeting.
7. The GME adopted the present abridged report.