



# CONFERENCE

## **Green Public Administration in the Context of Good Democratic Governance: Exchange of Good European Practice**

Join us on Wednesday **26 April 2023**

10:00 - 17:30

G01 Agora  
Council of Europe

[www.coe.int/good-governance](http://www.coe.int/good-governance)

Organised by the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) in cooperation with the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



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**CONFERENCE**

**GREEN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE CONTEXT OF GOOD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
EXCHANGE OF GOOD EUROPEAN PRACTICE**

The Conference is organised by the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) in cooperation with the Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

As the world is increasingly experiencing erratic weather patterns, leading to droughts, floods, and heatwaves, with detrimental consequences to people and eco-systems, tackling climate and environmental-related challenges is high on the political agenda of many governments of the Council of Europe member States, the European Union and other multilateral institutions. There is also a growing consensus on the urgency to take action to keep global warming below 2 degrees. The Paris Agreement in 2015 as well as the European Green Deal from 2020 set out ambitious targets to reduce carbon emission and address climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report published in March 2023 underlined the sense of urgency, pointing out that *"Effective climate action is enabled by political commitment, well-aligned multilevel governance, institutional frameworks, laws, policies and strategies and enhanced access to finance and technology. Clear goals, coordination across multiple policy domains, and inclusive governance processes facilitate effective climate action. Regulatory and economic instruments can support deep emissions reductions and climate resilience if scaled up and applied widely."* While the transition to more sustainable economy is a task for the whole society, the public sector is ideally placed to play a key role.

Public administration can lead the way regarding better management of natural resources and other environmentally impactful factors as well as the reduction of carbon emissions. Decisive action on the part of the public administration in turn will encourage individuals, organisations, and businesses to play their part. In fact, public administrations in many member States have already started playing a leading role by providing policy incentives to enable the transition and by implementing internal changes to their own modus operandi and activities to minimise their own direct and indirect impact on natural resources, energy capacities and the environment.

"Turning public administration green" also means formulating a shared vision held by the people and upholding a commitment to prioritise action to fight climate change.

The Conference will, among others, showcase good practice from member States and international organisations, discuss opportunities and challenges for public administration at local, regional and national level with a view to identifying recommendations. **The focus of the discussions will be on how to integrate environmental and climate change considerations into decision-making at all levels of government.** The results of the Conference will feed into the CDDG Report on Green Public Administration.

## **PROGRAMME**

9:30

*Registration*

**10:00 – 10:30**

### **Opening remarks**

*Chaired by Paul Rowsell, Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), United Kingdom*

- Ragnhildur Arnljótsdóttir, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe
- Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe
- Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Mathieu Mori, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

**10:30 – 11:30**

### **Green Transition: need for urgent action**

*Moderated by Paul Rowsell, Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), United Kingdom*

- Mark Hidson, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe, Global Director ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Centre: Local Green Deal
- Andoni Montes Nebreda, OECD Fiscal Network Consultant: Multi-level fiscal governance and the ecological transition
- Neringa Tumėnaitė, Member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers, EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership: Greening the Youth Sector

In light of environmental degradation and threats stemming from global warming, shrinking natural resources, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable production and consumption patterns and a growing global population, tackling climate and environmental-related challenges features prominently on the international political agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreements set out commitments for member States towards a green and sustainable transition. A green public administration plays a key role in setting targets and incentives and in promoting the integration of environmental and climate change considerations into decision making. The panel will explore, among others:

- What is green public administration and what can it deliver?
- What are the most pressing policy priorities for governments to consider, and how should they do so?
- What role would principles of democratic governance play in transformation processes?
- How to ensure that long term orientation, sustainability and concern for future generations prevail and what are barriers in “greening” the decision-making process?
- How to ensure democratic legitimacy for a green transition of the economy and society?

11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee break*

**12:00 – 13:00 National Level: decision-making and implementation**

*Moderated by Svetlana Geleva, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe*

- Agnese Geduševa, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia
- Ioannis Mathioudakis, Head of the Coordination Service and Christos Petsimeris, Head of the Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Greece
- Kęstutis Kazulis, Principal Advisor to Public Procurement Office, Lithuania
- Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Member of Parliament, Ukraine

Public administration is ideally placed to take the lead in advancing the transition to a more sustainable economy as it has a wide repertoire of instruments to take action, including setting concrete targets, introducing internal guidelines, promoting green budgeting and green procurement, supporting the efforts of external counterparts, and raising awareness of civil servants. Good practices from member States will be discussed and possible recommendations identified. The discussion will seek to explore:

- How to integrate and mainstream climate and environmental considerations into decision making?
- What are the instruments available to public administration in order to ensure that environmental and climate considerations are taken into account?
- How and when do governments involve citizens in the green transition? What role for the citizens and civil society?
- How does Ukraine deal with the ecocide and environmental damage caused by the Russian aggression? How to rebuild Ukraine with climate and environmental impact in mind?

13:00 - 14:30 *Lunch reception offered by the Icelandic presidency*

**14:30 – 17:00 Innovative Practice from cities and regions**

*Moderated by Markku Mölläri, Chair of the CDDG Working Group on Green Public Administration, Finland*

At local and regional level, mayors, representatives and councillors can demonstrate leadership by committing to reduction of carbon emissions and supporting innovative projects, including by civil society, private companies, and academia. An exchange of views about Do's and Don'ts will be held and lessons learned from different municipalities and regions across member States will be explored.

- Christian Brassac, Vice-President of the Eurometropole in charge of sustainable public procurement: Strasbourg's social and environmental policies
- Riina Tervo, Senior Advisor, Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland: Lessons from 30 years of cross-border cooperation
- Cemal Baş, Congress Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change: Greening the local and regional level
- Kristian Sultana, Senior Manager, Directorate for the Environment and Climate Change, Malta: Greening of Public Procurement processes at a Local Government Level

*15:45-16:00 Coffee break*

- Bart Somers, Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Administrative affairs, Civic integration and Equal opportunities, Belgium (video message)
- Betina Bergmann Madsen, Senior Consultant and UN Food System Champion, Municipality of Copenhagen, Denmark: Sustainable Food Procurement
- Si Chun Lam, Head of Research, Intelligence and Inclusive Growth at the West Midlands Combined Authority, United Kingdom: A fairer, greener and better-connected West Midlands

**17:00 - 17:30 Green Public Administration leading the way**

*Moderated by Paul Rowsell, Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), United Kingdom*

- Claudia Luciani, Director, Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance: Conclusions

Summary of key takeaways and recommendations from case studies followed by an open discussion on possible policy guidance for member States and on the role of public administration as leading the green transition.