

Strasbourg, 24 February 2023

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
PC-ENV(2023)01

# **COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CRIMINAL LAW (PC-ENV)**

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

---

**Briefing note**

---

Document prepared by the Secretariat  
Directorate General I – Human Rights and Rule of Law

[www.coe.int/cdpc](http://www.coe.int/cdpc) | [dgi-cdpc@coe.int](mailto:dgi-cdpc@coe.int)

## I. Background

The Committee of Experts on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV) was set up and entrusted by the [Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#) with the **drafting of a new Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law**.

Following the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe's adoption of the [terms of reference of the PC-ENV](#) on 23 November 2022, the PC-ENV was established in accordance with Article 17 of the [Statute of the Council of Europe](#) and [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#), under the authority of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and of the [European Committee on Crime Problems \(CDPC\)](#).

The PC-ENV is composed of experts on environmental crime, including representatives appointed by member States, by observer States and by other bodies of the Council of Europe, as well as by relevant international, supranational and non-governmental organisations.

## II. Format of the meeting

The PC-ENV will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Strasbourg, France, from 3 to 4 April 2023, in-person only. The meeting will take place at the Agora building, Room G03, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break between 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. The working languages will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

## III. Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of this first meeting are for the PC-ENV to:

- take note of the opening remarks of Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- take note of introductory matters presented by Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, Secretary to the PC-ENV;
- adopt the meeting's agenda;
- take note of relevant background information and applicable procedural rules presented by the Secretariat;
- hold a *tour de table*, with the introduction of all participants;
- elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC-ENV;
- take note of the presentations on current and ongoing initiatives by the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), followed by an exchange of views by all participants;
- examine the terms of reference of the PC-ENV;
- plan the future work of the PC-ENV, by holding an open discussion on the structure of the new Convention and identifying the next steps in its elaboration;
- decide on the modalities of preparing a preliminary draft Convention to be submitted to the PC-ENV in advance of its next meeting;
- take note of the date of its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for the end of June 2023;
- take note of the summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting's discussions, outcomes and concluding remarks.