

Strasbourg, 25/03/2026

CDENV(2026)AR1

STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (CDENV)

1st meeting
24–25 March 2026

LIST OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) held its 1st meeting in Strasbourg on 24–25 March 2026. 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 CDENV.

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law delivered an address to the CDENV.

2. The CDENV adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.
3. The CDENV elected Ms Sarah BARNIER-LEROY (France) as Chair, Ms Inga AKSAMITAUSKAITĖ (Lithuania) as Vice-Chair, Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN (Armenia), Ms Csilla FODOR (Hungary), and Mr Antonio ANTEQUERA (Spain) as Bureau members in pursuance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.
4. The CDENV appointed Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND (Norway) as Gender Equality Rapporteur and mainstreamed perspectives.
5. In pursuance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#), the CDENV granted observer status to:
 - International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
 - Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
 - Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE)
 - Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC)
 - Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)
 - Amnesty International
 - Greenpeace International
 - Wild Legal
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
 - European Council of Spatial Planners - Conseil Européen des Urbanistes (ECTP-CEU)
 - European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS)
 - UNISCAPE
 - Kimbé Rèd – French West Indies (KR-FWI) – France
 - IFLA Europe – European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects
 - Climate Justice for Rosa

- World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ)
 - Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland (ERCS)
6. The CDENV took note of the developments in the Council of Europe of interest for the CDENV, and had an exchange of views concerning its terms of reference, deliverables and deadlines as set out in document [CDENV\(2026\)1](#).
 7. Considering Strategic Objective 1, the CDENV held an exchange of views on the integration of Human Rights considerations in environmental matters and instruments and recent developments in the sectors of social rights, execution of judgments of the ECtHR, and legal co-operation.
 8. With regard to Strategic Objective 2, the CDENV examined a document on the review of disinformation, misinformation and access to information on environment-related matters, and approved a questionnaire as set up in Appendix III and agreed to send it to member States for reply by 15 May 2026. Ms Elisa MORGERA, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change, addressed the CDENV on the issue of disinformation and misinformation on environment-related matters.
 9. Pursuant to decision of the [CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1544/12.1](#), the CDENV examined Recommendation 536(2025) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe “An Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment” and adopted its comments as set out in Appendix IV.
 10. Considering Strategic Objective 3, the CDENV took note of the state of preparations of the First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders to be held at the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg on 3-4 June 2026 and had an exchange of views with Mr Michel FORST, Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention. The CDENV also considered a [CINGO Study on recent adverse developments for non-governmental organisations in Europe](#).
 11. Considering Strategic Objective 4, the CDENV held an exchange of views on the state of and prospects for signature and ratification of the [Convention on the Protection of Environment through Criminal Law](#) (CETS No. 228), and the best ways to promote it.
 12. Considering Strategic Objective 5, the CDENV examined a document on policy guidance and advice on capacity building measures for the adoption of Nature-based Solutions and ecosystems-based approaches embedded in broader governance structures, and approved a questionnaire as set up in Appendix V and agreed to send it to member States for reply by 15 May 2026.
 13. Considering also Strategic Objective 5, the CDENV took note of the contribution of the Landscape and Bern Conventions to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment. In addition, the CDENV appointed a representative in the 9th Session (2025-2026) international Jury of the Council of Europe [Landscape Award](#).
 14. The CDENV took note of the preparations for the UN Biodiversity Conference – COP17 (Yerevan, Armenia, 19-30 October 2026) and of the UN Climate Change Conference – COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, November 2026).
 15. The CDENV agreed to hold its next meeting on 13-14 October 2026 and adopted the preliminary draft agenda as set out in Appendix VI.
 16. The CDENV adopted the present abridged report and agreed to adopt the report of the 1st CDENV meeting through written procedure subject to Bureau's validation.

Appendix I – Agenda

Appendix II – List of Participants

Appendix III – Questionnaire on Disinformation, misinformation and access to information on environment-related matters: good practices and initiatives

Appendix IV – Comments of the CDENV on Recommendation 236(2025) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe “An Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment”

Appendix V – Questionnaire on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approaches

Appendix VI – Preliminary draft agenda for the 2nd meeting of the CDENV (13-14 October 2026)

APPENDIX I

AGENDA

1st meeting of the CDENV

24-25 March 2026

Council of Europe - Agora G02

(opening at 9.30 CET on Tuesday 24 March and closing at 17.30 CET on Wednesday 25 March 2026)

1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretariat
2. Adoption of the agenda
[CDENV(2026)OJ1prov]
3. Round table of presentation of participants
4. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members of the CDENV
[[CM/Res\(2021\)3](#)]
5. Nomination of a Gender Equality Rapporteur
[[CDENV\(2026\)2](#)]
6. Contribution of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (Strategic Objective 5)
 - a. Nomination of a representative of the CDENV in the international Jury of the Landscape Award [[CDENV\(2026\)8](#)]
7. Requests for observer status to the CDENV
[CDENV(2026)3, CDENV(2026)3add, [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#)]
8. Terms of reference of the CDENV
[[CDENV\(2026\)1](#), [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#), [Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment](#)]
9. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
10. Integration of Human Rights considerations in environmental matters and instruments (Strategic Objective 1)
 - a. European Court of Human Rights cases [[Thematic factsheet](#), [Manual](#)]
 - b. European Committee on Social Rights decisions [[CDENV\(2026\)10](#)]
 - c. International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2025 Advisory Opinion on climate change obligations [[Press release](#)]
 - d. National Climate Litigation [[Study](#)]
11. Review of disinformation, misinformation and access to information on environment-related matters (Strategic Objective 2)
[CDENV(2026)4]
12. Comments on Congress Recommendation 536 (2025) “An additional protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment” (Strategic Objective 2)
[CDENV(2026)6prov]
13. First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (Strasbourg, 3-4 June 2026) (Strategic Objective 3)
[[CDENV\(2026\)7](#), [CINGO Study on recent adverse developments for non-governmental organisations in Europe](#)]

14. Convention on the Protection of Environment through Criminal Law: Round table on signature and ratification prospects (CETS No. 228) (Strategic Objective 4)
[\[CDENV\(2026\)9\]](#)
15. Policy guidance and advice on capacity building measures for the adoption of Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem-based approaches embedded in the broader governance structures (Strategic Objective 5)
[\[CDENV\(2026\)5\]](#)
16. Contribution of the Bern Convention to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (Strategic Objective 5)
17. Participation of the Council of Europe in International Conferences:
 - a. UN Biodiversity Conference – COP 17 (Yerevan, Armenia, 19-30 October 2026)
 - b. UN Climate Change Conference – COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, 9-20 November 2026)
18. Any other business
19. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the next meeting (13-14 October 2026)
[\[CDENV\(2026\)OJ2prov\]](#)
20. Adoption of the abridged report
[\[CDENV\(2026\)AR1prov\]](#)

APPENDIX II

List of Participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE	
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Mme Sílvia FERRER LÓPEZ (apologies/ <i>excusée</i>) Directrice du Département de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage Mme Laura COLL MALÉ (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Responsable de secteur du Département de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage
ARMENIA / ARMENIE	Ms Ruzanna GRIGORYAN Head of International Cooperation Department Ministry of Environment
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Ms Alice IRVIN (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Director for General European Affairs Federal Ministry European and International Affairs Ms Noémie KEIL Assistant Permanent Representation of Austria to the Council of Europe
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN	Mr Ulfat MACHANOV Deputy-Head of Climate Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Orkhan BAYRAMOV (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Advisor
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Ms Sophie THYS Legal Policy Advisor Government of Flanders, Environment Department Ms Leen CHANET (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Legal Policy Advisor Government of Flanders, Environment Department Ms Katrijn HEYLEN Legal Policy Advisor Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVIA / BOSNIE & HERZEGOVINE	Ms Rada MILISAV Head of the Department for Water Resources Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

BULGARIA / BULGARIE	Ms Silvia RANGELOVA (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Director Directorate for Coordination of EU Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Kalin ILIEV (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Head of the Department for Strategic Environmental Planning Directorate for Coordination of EU Affairs and International Cooperation
CROATIA / CROATIE	
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	Dr Nasia DIKIGOROPOULOU (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Environment Officer Department of Environment
CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE	Ms Barbora CHRPOVA Officer Ministry of the Environment Ms Júlia TÓBIKOVÁ (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Officer Ministry of the Environment
DENMARK / DANEMARK	
ESTONIA / ESTONIE	Mr Mart KIIS Head of Biodiversity Strategy Biodiversity Conservation Department Ministry of Climate
FINLAND / FINLANDE	Ms Charlotta VON TROIL (apologies/ <i>excusée</i>) Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of the Environment Mr Johannes JUSSILA Intern Permanent Representation of Finland to the Council of Europe
FRANCE	Ms Sarah BARNIER-LEROY Legal Adviser Directorate of Legal Affairs Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
GEORGIA / GÉORGIE	Ms Tamta CHANKSELIANI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) First Category Senior Specialist of Donor Coordination Division International Relations and European Integration Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	Ms Mareike WELKE Deputy Head of Unit Bilateral Cooperation with EU/EFTA Member States and the UK

GREECE / GRÈCE	Mr Othon-Alexandros KAMINIARIS-KONTOSTAVLOS Expert Counselor D4 Directorate for Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Global Policies Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Alikì GKANA (online/ en ligne) Legal Advisor Department of Public International Law Ministry of Foreign Affairs
HUNGARY / HONGRIE	Ms Csilla FODOR EU and International Affairs Officer Ministry of Energy Department of Environmental Development and Strategy Ms Kinga ALBICZ (online/ en ligne) National Representative to the Council of Europe Landscape Convention Ministry of Agriculture
ICELAND / ISLANDE	Ambassador María Erla MARELSDÓTTIR (online/ en ligne) Ambassador Special Envoy to the Climate Ms Gudrun THORSTEINSDOTTIR (online/ en ligne) Adviser Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Diljá VALDIMARSDÓTTIR (online/ en ligne) Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs
IRELAND / IRLANDE	Mr Andrew MALONE (online/ en ligne) Policy Officer Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
ITALY / ITALIE	Ms Silvia SCHIAVI Officer Directorate General for European and International Affairs and Sustainable Finance Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security
LATVIA / LETTONIE	Mr Dāvis BIČKOVICS (online/ en ligne) Director Spatial Planning and Land Management Department Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development Mr Dainis UPMACIS Lawyer Investment Management Department Ministry of Climate and Energy
LIECHTENSTEIN	

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	Ms Inga AKSAMITAUSKAITĖ Advisor Group of Environment Protection Policy Coordination Ministry of Environment Dr Giedre GODIENE (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Associate Professor Institute of Geosciences Vilnius University
LUXEMBOURG	Ms Svenja STOLTZ Jurist Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity
MALTA / MALTE	Mr Darrin STEVENS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Director Environment and Resources Directorate Mr Luke YOUNG (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Team Manager Environment and Resources Directorate
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA / REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Ms Valeria HUTULEAC (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Deputy Secretary General Ministry of Environment Ms Paula TATAMIROV (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Acting Head of International Relations and External Assistance Section Ministry of Environment
MONACO	Ms Céline VAN KLAVEREN (apologies/ <i>excusée</i>) Experte Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ms Margaux GIRARDIN Deputy Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe Mr Gabriel CHABERT First Secretary Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe
MONTENEGRO	Mr Nenad VITOMIROVIĆ (apologies/ <i>excusé</i>) Secretary of State Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development Ms Milena MIJAJLOVIĆ Head of Division Directorate for the Development of the North Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development

	Ms Sonja RAŽNATOVIĆ (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Acting Director General Directorate for Strategic Relations and Communications
NETHERLANDS / <i>PAYS-BAS</i>	Ms Sara VAN DEN BOOM Legal Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Gudi ALKEMADE (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Coordinating Policy Officer Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management Ms Felice VAN DER PLAAT (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Coordinating Policy Officer Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
NORTH MACEDONIA / <i>MACÉDOINE DU NORD</i>	
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	Mr Terje Birkrem HOVLAND Senior Advisor Ministry of Climate and Environment Ms Liv Kirstine JUST-MORTENSEN (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Research Coordinator and National focal point for the Council of Europe Landscape Convention Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
POLAND / POLOGNE	Mr Jan SZYDLO Specialist Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Climate and Environment
PORTUGAL / PORTUGAL	Ms Ana CASTELA RODRIGUES Senior Advisor Department of European and International Affairs
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	Ms Adela DRAGOMIR (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Counsellor for European Affairs General Directorate for International Relations and European Affairs Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
SAN MARINO / SAINT MARIN	
SERBIA / SERBIE	Mr Darko NINKOV Counsellor Sector for Multilateral Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	Mr Marek ENGEL Director General Institute for Environmental Policy Ministry of the Environment Ms Zuzana BUZALKOVÁ (online/ en ligne) State Senior Advisor Ministry of the Environment
SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	Ms Ambassador Mateja VODEB (online/ en ligne) Head of Department for Global Challenges Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Ms Ambassador Eva TOMIČ (online/ en ligne) Department for Global Challenges Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Ms Urška ŠKRABA (online/ en ligne) Ministry of Environment and Energy Ms Elena DEL FABRO (online/ en ligne) Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	Ms Carmen Sofía SANZ ESTEBANEZ (apologies/ excusée) Head of International Affairs Secretariat of State for the Environment Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge Ms Elena VAZQUEZ GARCIA Head of Heritage Department Ministry for Culture Mr Antonio Jesús ANTEQUERA DELGADO Ministry for Culture Vice-Chair of the 13th Conference on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention
SWEDEN / SUÈDE	Ms Gabriella MODIN (online/ en ligne) Legal Advisor Ministry of Climate and Enterprise
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	Mr Sébastien TRUFFER Chef de section suppléant Office fédéral de l'environnement
TÜRKIYE	Ms İlay SARILAR (online/ en ligne) Environmental Engineer, MSc, MASc. Department of Air Management General Directorate of Environmental Management Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Mr Sarp Ege ÖZPİRİNÇİ Deputy Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the Council of Europe

UKRAINE / UKRAINE	Mr Bohdan SEMENENKO (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Coordinator Environment and Climate Change Unit
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI	Mr Adam LAVIS Environmental Rights Lead Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

PARTICIPANTS / PARTICIPANTS

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

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Ms Aurora FLORIDIA Italy Member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe	Ms Meropi YDRAIOU (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Thematic Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change
Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe	Ms Cristina GENOVESE (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Advisor
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	Ms Sumeyra ARSLAN Representative of the Conference of INGOs Mr Jeremy MCBRIDE President of the Expert Council on NGO Law of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

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

Bern Convention	Mr Carl AMIRGULASHVILLI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) President of the Bern Convention Standing Committee
CDENF	Ms Tanja GERWIEN Co-Secretary
CDCJ	Mr Jean-Christophe BOULET General Advisor
ECSR	Ms Aoife NOLAN (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) President
Landscape Convention	Ms Marta RODRIGUES Chair of the 13th Conference on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

Advisory Council on Youth / CCJ	Ms Emilie TAMO KAMGUIA (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Member of the Advisory Council on Youth
---------------------------------	---

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

HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE	Mr Paolo CONVERSI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Officiel de la Secrétairerie d'Etat
MEXICO / MEXIQUE	Ms Laura Patricia RODRIGUEZ CODALLOS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Director for Multilateral Environmental Affairs

NON-MEMBER STATES PARTIES TO THE BERN CONVENTION /
ETATS NON-MEMBRES MAIS PARTIES A LA CONVENTION DE BERNE

MOROCCO / MAROC	Dr Mostafa MADBOUHI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Chef de la Division de la Diversité Biologique Direction du Climat et de la Diversité Biologique Département du Développement Durable
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	Mme Sabria BNOUNI Directrice Générale de la Coopération Internationale Ministère de l'Environnement

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS /
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

The United Nations and its agencies	OHCHR	Ms Elisa MORGERA (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights Mr Benjamin SCHACHTER Coordinator, Environment and Climate Change Unit Ms Harriet HIRST (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Human Rights Officer Ms Johanna ZABEL (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Intern
	UNECE	Mr Michel FORST UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention Ms Laetitia Marie Annonciade BATTISTI Advisor Team of the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention Ms Maryna YANUSH (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Environmental Affairs Officer Aarhus Convention Secretariat

IUCN	Ms Agnes MICHELOT (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Professeure des universités, membre du Steering Committee WCEL IUCN
OECD	Mr Ivan HASCIC (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Senior Environmental Economist

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

Organisation	Nominated representative
Amnesty International	Ms Ann HARRISON (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Climate Justice Researcher and Policy Advisor
Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Mr Sébastien DUYCK Senior Attorney
Child Rights International Network (CRIN)	Ms Sumeyra ARSLAN Climate Engagement and Policy Advisor
Climate Justice for Rosa	Mr Benjamin VAN BUNDEREN ROBBERECHTS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Founder and Campaign Lead
Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE)	Ms Corina HERI (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Deputy Director for Europe
IFLA Europe – European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects	Ms Indra PURS (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) President
Kimbé Rèd - French West Indies (F.W.I.)	Ms Sabrina CAJOLY (online/ <i>en ligne</i>) Founder

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

Name	Department
Mr Rafael BENITEZ	Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment
Mr Gianluca SILVESTRINI	Secretary of the Steering Committee on the Environment Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department
Mr Mikaël POUTIERS	Administrator Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department

Ms Nino LATSABIDZE	Policy Advisor Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department
Ms Catarina GARCIA	Policy Advisor Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department
Ms Laura MESSINA	Policy Advisor Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department
Ms Jenny MITCALF	Administrative Support Assistant Reykjavik Process and the Environment Department

APPENDIX III

Questionnaire on Disinformation, misinformation and access to information on environment-related matters: good practices and initiatives

Section I – General Information

1. Responding country / entity:
2. Institution(s) responsible for completing the questionnaire:
3. Contact person (name, function, email):
4. Level(s) covered by the response:
 - National
 - Regional
 - Local
 - Combination (please specify)

Section II – Public Perception and Awareness

5. Has your country conducted a national survey assessing public concern about climate change or environmental issues?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the key findings:

Section III – Disinformation and Misinformation on Environmental Matters

6. What are the main challenges or impediments related to climate or environmental disinformation and misinformation in your country?

Please describe their potential impacts (for example: on the adoption of environmental policies and legislation, climate mitigation and adaptation measures, nature-based solutions, or on public trust in environmental information).

Section IV – Policies and Programmes Addressing Disinformation

- 7.a. Does your country have policies, strategies, or programmes aimed at addressing disinformation or misinformation in the field of environment?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

- 7.b. How does it ensure coordination with the broader policies on information integrity?

8. How does your country promote coordination and integration between environmental information and health policies?

Section V – Fact-Checking and Information Verification

9. Does your country support or operate any fact-checking mechanisms or platforms that help verify the accuracy of environmental or climate-related information?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Section VI – Access to Environmental Information

10. Is there legislation in force in your country that regulates or guarantees access to environmental information?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

Section VII – Environmental Education and Youth Access to Information

11. What measures are in place in your country to ensure access to environmental education and information for persons and groups in vulnerable situations and/or exposed to discrimination, including for children and young people?

Please describe relevant initiatives:

Section VIII – Environmental Reporting by the Private Sector

12. Are private sector entities in your country legally required to report on activities that may have an impact on the environment?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Section IX – Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)

13. Does your national legal framework include measures to prevent or address Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

Section X – Multisectoral Cooperation and Networking

14. How does your country support cooperation and coordination between public institutions, scientists, the media, civil society, and other relevant sectors?

Section XI – Supporting the Work on Information Integrity

15.a. Does your country have agencies that work on information integrity?

Yes, if yes please list them

No

15.b. Does it support civil society organisations (including researchers or think tanks) and independent journalists that work on information integrity?

Yes

No

15.c. If yes, please describe the type of support provided to its recipients.

Section XII – Development Cooperation

16. Does your country implement or fund projects aimed at supporting information integrity abroad? In which countries and in which areas? If any, describe the relevant initiatives

Section XIII – Additional Good Practices and Initiatives

Please describe any additional good practices, initiatives, or programmes implemented in your country to combat environmental disinformation or misinformation, strengthen public access to reliable environmental information and promote transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making.

APPENDIX IV

Comments of the Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) on Recommendation 236(2025) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe “An Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment”

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter “the Congress”) adopted Recommendation 536 (2025) on “An Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment” on 29 October 2025. The Recommendation was subsequently submitted to the Committee of Ministers, which decided to forward it to the Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV) and to the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), for information and possible comments, by 7 April 2026 (see [document CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1544/12.1](#) of 26 November 2025).
2. In its Recommendation, the Congress acknowledges the role of local authorities as a central element of the response to the triple planetary threat that our societies face and stresses the importance of a comprehensive multilevel governance approach to address this threat effectively. To provide legal means for local authorities to fulfil their responsibilities and contribute effectively to the global response to climate change, the Congress considers that the European Charter of Local Self-Government should be supplemented with an additional protocol specifically dedicated to environmental protection at the local level. It therefore calls on the Committee of Ministers to consider drafting and adopting an Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government in order to ensure that member States enable local authorities to integrate environmental considerations in local governance to address the challenges arising from the triple planetary crisis and environmental degradation. The Congress invites the Committee of Ministers to initiate this process, in cooperation with the Congress, and taking into consideration the proposed contribution of the Congress (see paragraphs 3-5 of the Recommendation).
3. The CDENV considered the Recommendation at its first meeting, which was held in Strasbourg and online on 24 and 25 March 2026.
4. The CDENV welcomes the calls by the Congress for additional efforts to protect the environment, and to counter the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as recognised in the Reykjavík Declaration, in particular Appendix V “The Council of Europe and the environment”. It recognises the critical role of local and regional authorities in responding to environmental and climate change challenges arising in their communities.
5. The CDENV underlines the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment adopted at the 134th session of the Committee of Ministers in Luxembourg on 14 May 2025. The Strategy provides guidance to Council of Europe institutions, bodies, programmes and administration, including the Congress, facilitating the co-ordination of their work to meet five strategic objectives. The CDENV reiterates, in particular, Strategic Objective 2 - *Strengthening good democratic governance*, – and the importance of local and regional authorities in its achievement (see paragraphs 12.b, 16.a.ii., 17, 22, 24, 34 and 35).
6. The CDENV also recalls that an Action Plan has been drawn up to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy. One of the actions (Action 2.12) provides, at the request of the Congress, for the “Consideration of a draft Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government dedicated to environmental protection”. This would entail the Committee of Ministers mandating an intergovernmental committee to prepare a feasibility study for an Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment and, subsequently, on the basis of a further mandate, to prepare a draft of such a protocol.
7. The CDENV notes that in its Recommendation 536 (2025), the Congress highlights environmental protection as an essential part of local governance. The Committee also notes that,

according to the Congress, the proposal of an additional protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the environment is a clear and concrete contribution to the Council of Europe's effort to fight the triple planetary environmental crisis, that does not give additional meaning to the provisions European Charter of Local Self-Government but is rather a separate instrument that member States could choose to ratify. The effect of the Additional Protocol would be to support and guide local and regional authorities in helping member States to meet their existing environmental commitments.

8. The CDENV points out that in its [reply](#) to Congress [Recommendation 484 \(2022\)](#) ("A fundamental right to the environment: a matter for local and regional authorities – towards a green reading of the European Charter of Local Self-government") adopted on 18 October 2023 at the 1478th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, the Committee of Ministers already stated "that care should be taken over any suggestion that the existing Charter should be viewed or interpreted through a particular lens; it is important to ensure that no additional meanings are read into provisions of the Charter that are not there." (see paragraph 7 of the reply).

9. The CDENV considers that the aims articulated by Congress to "acknowledge the role of local authorities as a central element of the response to the triple planetary threat that our societies face" could be achieved via several means.

10. The CDENV further considers that the clarification of the distribution of competences between levels of government is a multilevel governance issue which is best addressed by the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM).

11. In light of the above, the CDENV considers that any new initiatives relating to environmental governance be situated within the broader context of Council of Europe work in the area of environment, and, in particular, take account of ongoing discussions on the need for and feasibility of further instrument or instruments in the field of human rights and the environment. This would ensure a coherent, strategic and well-coordinated approach across the Organisation.

APPENDIX V

Questionnaire on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Approaches

Section I – General Information

1. Responding country / entity:
2. Institution(s) responsible for completing the questionnaire:
3. Contact person (name, function, email):
4. Level(s) covered by the response:
 - ☐ National
 - ☐ Regional
 - ☐ Local
 - ☐ Combination (please specify)

Section II – Policy and Strategic Framework

5. Does your country have policies, strategies, action plans, or programmes that explicitly refer to Nature-based Solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please list them (title, year, level, responsible authority).

6. Are NbS integrated into sectoral or cross-sectoral policies (e.g. climate, biodiversity, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, health, water, agriculture)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please specify sectors and provide examples.

7. Are NbS addressed within just transition, sustainable development, or socio-economic transformation policies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please briefly describe how.

Section III – Legal and Regulatory Framework

8. Are there legal definitions, standards, or regulatory provisions relevant to NbS or ecosystem-based approaches?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please specify the relevant legislation or regulatory instruments.

9. Are measures in place to prevent misuse of NbS concepts or greenwashing?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please briefly describe.

Section IV – Governance and Institutional Arrangements

10. Is a whole-of-government or cross-sectoral coordination mechanism in place for NbS?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please describe its structure and role.

11. Which public authorities are primarily responsible for design, implementation, and monitoring of NbS initiatives?

Section V – Participation, Inclusion, and Rights-Based Approaches

12. How are local communities and stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of NbS?

(e.g. consultations, co-design, participatory governance mechanisms)

13. Are gender equality and inclusion explicitly addressed in NbS-related policies or projects?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide examples.

14. Are youth participation and intergenerational perspectives incorporated?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain.

Section VI – Implementation and Good Practices

15. Please describe up to three concrete examples of NbS or ecosystem-based initiatives implemented at national, regional, or local level.

For each example, please indicate:

- Location and level
- Objectives
- Main actors involved
- Key outcomes and benefits
- Challenges encountered

16. Are there monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to assess environmental, social, and economic impacts of NbS?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please describe.

Section VII – Capacity Building, Data, and Knowledge

17. Are capacity-building activities (training, guidance, toolkits) available for public authorities or stakeholders on NbS?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. How are scientific data, evidence, or digital tools used to inform NbS decision-making?

Section VIII – Challenges, Needs, and Added Value

19. What are the main challenges your country faces in developing or implementing NbS?

20. What support or guidance would be most useful at European level?

- ☐ Policy guidance
- ☐ Legal analysis
- ☐ Capacity building
- ☐ Exchange of good practices
- ☐ Data and indicators
- ☐ Other (please specify)

21. Any additional comments or information you wish to share?

APPENDIX VI

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

2nd meeting

13-14 October 2026

Council of Europe - Agora G03

(opening at 9.30am CET on Tuesday 13 October and closing at 17.30pm CET on Wednesday 14 October 2026)

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
[CDENV(2026)OJ2prov]
3. Developments concerning the Council of Europe
4. Integration of Human Rights considerations in environmental matters and instruments (Strategic Objective 1)
5. Review of disinformation, misinformation and access to information on environment-related matters (Strategic Objective 2)
6. Review of practices of courts, tribunals and legal professionals specialising in environmental law, including the identification of good procedural and substantive practices (Strategic Objective 2)
7. Outcome of the First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (Strasbourg, 3-4 June 2026) (Strategic Objective 3)
8. Study on the conditions enabling child and young environmental defenders to access information, to safely and freely express themselves, to issue recommendations and to access justice. A child-friendly version of the report will be made available (Strategic Objective 3)
9. Convention on the Protection of Environment through Criminal Law: Round table on signature and ratification prospects (CETS No. 228) (Strategic Objective 4)
10. Policy guidance and advice on capacity building measures for the adoption of Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem-based approaches embedded in the broader governance structures (Strategic Objective 5)
11. Contribution of the Bern Convention to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (Strategic Objective 5)
12. Contribution of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment (Strategic Objective 5)
13. Upcoming International Conferences:
 - a. UN Biodiversity Conference – COP17 (Yerevan, Armenia, 19-30 October 2026)
 - b. UN Climate Change Conference – COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye, 9-20 November 2026)
14. Any other business
15. Preliminary draft agenda, date and place of the next meeting
[CDENV(2026)OJ3prov]
16. Adoption of the abridged report
[CDENV(2026)AR2prov]