

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE  
TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION  
PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**"GREENING ECONOMIES IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD" (EAP GREEN) PROGRAMME:**

**Summary Record of the Second Steering Committee Meeting**

**16-17 September 2013 (Tbilisi, Georgia)**

*A draft version of this document was circulated to meeting participants for endorsement through a written procedure. The comments that were received were integrated into the text. The attached document is, therefore, the final Summary record of the 2013 EaP GREEN Steering Committee meeting.*

*ACTION REQUIRED: : For information.*

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**JT03368756**

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**“GREENING ECONOMIES IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD”  
(EaP GREEN) PROGRAMME:  
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
(16-17 September 2013, Tbilisi)**

1. The second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) Programme was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 16-17 September 2013. Participants included the National Focal Points from six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), representatives of the European Commission (EC), the four implementing organisations (OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO), as well as members of the donor community and other observers (see the list of participants in Annex 1). The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss and endorse the biennial plan of work, and review the programme’s first progress report. The meeting also discussed one of the EaP GREEN programme’s main activities: namely, what economic opportunities the green economy has, or could, generate, and how those opportunities could be enhanced by better access to finance. This Draft Summary Record includes the main outcomes of discussions and decisions taken and deadlines agreed during the meeting.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks**

2. The delegates took note of:

- Welcoming remarks by Ms Nino Sharashidze, First Deputy Minister of Environment of Georgia and Mr Mathieu Bousquet, Head of Sector, European Commission;
- The organisation of the Second Steering Committee meeting back-to-back with the annual meeting of the OECD/EAP Task Force; in view of synergies, the EAP Task Force meeting was open to participation from all Steering Committee members (see the main outcomes of this meeting in document [ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2013)4].

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the Meeting**

3. The delegates:

- Adopted the Draft Agenda of the meeting without amendment;
- Adopted the Summary Record of the First EaP GREEN Steering Committee (26 April 2013) [ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2013)3], and, following a question from Belarus, clarified the Steering Committee’s status in the governance of the EaP GREEN programme;
- Agreed that draft summary records be circulated shortly after each Steering Committee meeting and approved during subsequent meetings.

**Agenda Item 3: Work plan for 2013-14 and progress**

4. The delegates:

- Noted the key outcomes from a series of launch events organised in all six of the EaP countries in late May – early July 2013;
- Noted the presentations of the implementing organisations on planned activities and progress made in relation to each of the three components of the programme;

- Welcomed the interest by the EaP countries to participate in specific projects, which has been expressed during and following the national-level EaP GREEN launch events, as well as re-iterated during the meeting; discussed, and adopted the EaP GREEN work plan for 2013-2014 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)12];
- Discussed and endorsed the first EaP GREEN progress report [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)11];
- Stressed the need for coordination between the implementing partners, especially when it comes to the national-level implementation of activities, as well as between the implementing partners and, respectively, the National Focal Points (NFPs) and the European Commission;
- Agreed that all national-level events should be planned in consultation with NFPs;
- Called on NFPs to coordinate activities to the greatest extent, including with focal points of the Espoo Convention;

Agreed that the programme's web-site should support the coordination effort through regular updates based on input from all partners, including an updated list of planned EaP GREEN events

#### **Agenda Item 4: Grasping green growth opportunities in the EaP countries: focus on green industry**

5. UNIDO made a presentation on the overall policy and operational frameworks for resource efficient and cleaner production, as a basis for putting green economy in practice in the industrial sector. This presentation was complemented by presentations reporting on ground-level work conducted by the Ukrainian Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centre, and by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The subsequent round-table discussion showed that countries have a relatively clear understanding of their priority sectors in terms of green economy promotion. The importance of improving the environmental practices of SMEs was acknowledged, as well as the related need to build their capacity and improve their access to finance. Delegates also stressed that incentives, such as adequate pricing of energy and resources, should be strengthened. The importance of cost-benefit analysis and financial planning tools was mentioned as crucial for identifying viable investments.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Relevant developments in the European Union**

6. Under this agenda item, presentations were delivered by the representatives of the EC and European Investment Bank (EIB). The EC representative presented the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme and the process for revising the directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following discussion, it was agreed that the changes to the EIA Directive would not require any changes to Component 2 of EaP GREEN. The anticipated amendments to the EIA Directive can be taken in to account during legal reviews, on a case-by-case basis if requested by the pilot countries. The EIB representative presented the EU's new Green Infrastructure Strategy, for which the EIB will establish a special financing facility. Delegates expressed the hope that implementation of EaP GREEN projects, e.g. those on cleaner production, would create opportunities to access EIB funding in the future.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Other business, next meeting and closing remarks**

7. The delegates:
- Noted the preliminary date for their next meeting (8 October 2014), the proposal to hold it in Minsk (Belarus), and invited participants to signal any conflicts of schedule by mid-October 2013;
  - Expressed gratitude to the Georgian government for hosting and co-chairing the meeting.

## ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Tbilisi, Georgia

16/9/2013 - 17/9/2013

### EaP and EU government representatives

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