

Draft Agenda: The GREEN Action Task Force Annual Meeting 2024

Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova

This Meeting will be held in the conference room of the Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel in Chisinau, Moldova (address: Strada Mitropolit Varlaam 77). It will be hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova.

The meeting documentation, including the Logistical Note is available from the meeting web site: <https://oe.cd/GATF2024>. To participate in the meeting online please register using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/WTWwR3LaWN>

The meeting will be co-chaired by:

- **Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov**, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair, Republic of Moldova
- **Mr Jürgen Keinhorst**, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair / Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

Version as of 09 April 2024

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2024 Annual meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force

16-17 April 2024

Chişinău, the Republic of Moldova

Venue: Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, Chisinau (Address: Strada Mitropolit Varlaam 77)

Draft Agenda

All meeting documents are available online: <https://oe.cd/GATF2024>

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/e/WTWwR3LaWN>

Link for online participation: <https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkc--sqzsjH9Dfyx6TigLie-ji9dviewORd>

Background

Since 2016, the GREEN Action Task Force, (and previously under the name of the EAP Task Force) has been a unique platform for interested OECD countries and development co-operation partners to work with the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)¹ to facilitate reforms, development and implementation of policies that improve environmental quality and social well-being in the region, while creating opportunities for strong economic growth and decent jobs.

In 2022, the Environment Ministers who gathered at the 9th “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference agreed to renew the mandate of the Task Force² and called for the continuation of its activities, including support to Ukraine. Since the mandate renewal, the Task Force Secretariat has consulted with various members of the Task Force and stakeholders within the OECD Environmental Policy Committee on its future directions³.

The 2024 Annual meeting aims to enable members of the Task Force and partners to:

- Exchange views on the recent developments and plans towards green economy transition in the EECCA region, including in the context of Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine

¹ For work programme implementation, the EECCA region is currently considered as: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova (Moldova), Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

² See para 20 of the [EfE Ministerial Declaration](#):

³ See also [https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/ENV-EPOC-EAP\(2022\)2-REV1.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/ENV-EPOC-EAP(2022)2-REV1.pdf)

- Discuss the implementation of the GREEN Action Task Force work programme (progress since the last meeting and plans for 2023-24)
- Discuss selected substantive issues related to green economy transition in EECCA.
- Present and discuss the Programme of Work of the Task Force for the period 2025-2026.

The GREEN Action Task Force meeting will bring together high-level officials from the Ministries of Environment and of Economy from the EECCA and interested OECD member countries, as well as development co-operation partners, financial institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector active in the region.

Further information about the meeting, including the documentation and information about the logistical arrangements, is available from the GREEN Action Task Force web site <https://oe.cd/GATF2024>.

English-Russian interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

DAY 1

[Welcome coffee/tea provided at the venue]

16 April 2024**Special Session*****Supporting Ukraine in an environmentally sustainable recovery the Russian aggression against the country, and strengthening the economic and environmental resilience of the neighboring countries***09:30-12:30
(Chişinău
time)

This special session aims to discuss the GREEN Action Task Force's support to Ukraine's environmentally sustainable recovery from the war, and to strengthening the economic and environmental resilience of the neighboring countries. The discussion will include the preparations for the Ukraine Recovery Conference planned for June 2024 in Berlin and the green recovery dimension of it.

Welcome remarks (9:30 – 9:50)

- Welcome by the GREEN Action Task Force Co-Chair: Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov
- Opening remarks by Mr. Yevhenii Fedorenko, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine (tbc)

Presentation of the EU Ukraine facility and the preparations for the Ukraine Recovery Conference planned for June 2024 in Berlin (9:50 – 10:30)

- Representative of European Commission (tbc)
- Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair / Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

Open questions/reactions

Break (10:30 – 11:00)

Presentation of an initiative “Platform for Green Recovery of Ukraine” (11:00-12:00)

- Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Germany
- Mr Pier Carlo Sandei, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Kyiv Office
- Representative of Ukraine

Roundtable discussion among the Task Force members including on their support programmes for Ukraine: EECCA countries, OECD member countries, multilateral development banks, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations.

12:30-13:30

Networking lunch (venue TBD)***Official start of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force***13:30-13:45
(Chişinău
time)**Item 1: Opening remarks, and adoption of the agenda and the draft summary record of the 2023 Annual Meeting**

	<p>Co-Chairs and the Secretariat will welcome the participants. The Co-Chair will introduce the agenda and the summary record of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Task Force.</p> <p>Welcome remarks by the Task Force Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair, Republic of Moldova • Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair / Head of Regional Division for Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Veronica Arpintin, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitization, the Republic of Moldova • Mr Yuval Laster, Head, Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, OECD <p>The Task Force members will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting and take note of the summary record of the last Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force meeting in 2023.</p> <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft agenda of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force • Summary record of the 2023 Annual Meeting
13:45-14:30 (Chişinău time)	<p>Item 2: Implementation of 2023-2024 Programme of Work and Budget and planning for the 2025-2026 Programme of Work and Budget of the GREEN Action Task Force</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Republic of Moldova</i></p> <p>This session aims to provide an opportunity to highlight the results and impacts of the ongoing work by the Task Force, the activities planned for the rest of the 2024 and introduce the main elements of the future work under the Programme of Work 2025-2026.</p> <p>Secretariat update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat will highlight the key results of the Task Force's activities and remaining plans for 2024 • The Secretariat will also outline the main elements of the proposed 2025-2026 Programme of Work <p>Open discussion</p> <p>The Task Force members will be invited to take note of the update on the results and planned activities. They may wish to ask questions for clarification and share their views on the impacts and benefits of co-operation under the GREEN Action Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your views on the work proposed for 2025-26? • In your opinion, which areas require more focus and resources? • In your opinion, are there areas that you would like to see fewer efforts on? • In your opinion, is there an area of work that is crucial for the GREEN Action Task Force to develop? • What additional steps could be taken to reinforce the impacts, practical results and benefits of co-operation under the Task Force? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GREEN Action Task Force Work Programme 2023-24 [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2022)1/REV1]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Programme of Work and Budget of the GREEN Action Task Force for 2025-2026 [Link to be uploaded to the meeting website]
14:30-15:00	Coffee break
15:00-17:00 (Chişinău time)	<p>Item 3: Selected focus topic: Strengthening compliance with environmental regulations, with a focus on mining/critical minerals</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Martine Rohn-Brossard, Switzerland</p> <p>Environmental compliance assurance refers to promotion, monitoring and enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations. Building on the OECD's two decades of experience working on this subject with Member and non-Member economies and in close co-operation with environmental inspectorates, the EU-funded EU4Environment Action: Green Economy Programme (2019-2024) has aimed to support the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) with strengthening their environmental liability regimes and compliance assurance systems.</p> <p>This session will present the results of EU4Environment Action: Green Economy Programme, explore recent progress in environmental compliance assurance in the region and possible future areas of support. It will also facilitate an exchange on the challenges and approaches to regulating and enforcing compliance in the mining sector, which is an important economic sector in several countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.</p> <p>Scene-setting presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Secretariat Introduction to environmental compliance assurance and recent trends in the Eastern Partnership <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Veronica Arpintin, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitization, Moldova • Mr Taniel Iremadze, Deputy Head, Administrative Department, Department of Environmental Supervision, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia • Mr Aleqsandre Devidze, Deputy Environmental Director, Rich Metals Group (RMG) Copper, Georgia • Ms. Ms Inga Zarafyan, President, "EcoLur" Informational NGO, Armenia (online) • Mr Marco Falconi, Chair, European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) • Representative of the Committee on Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan (tbc) <p>Q&A and open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What progress has been achieved in the promotion, monitoring and enforcement of environmental compliance to encourage voluntary compliance, and detect and remedy non-compliance with regulations? What are the priority areas of reform? • What are the biggest challenges in regulating and ensuring compliance with regulations in the mining sector? What analytical or capacity building support can GATF provide in this area? <p>Reflection from the Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Martine Rohn-Brossard, Switzerland <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report, The environmental compliance assurance system in Armenia: Current situation and recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report, Environmental liability provisions in Armenia: Damage prevention and assessment - Report, The environmental compliance assurance system in Georgia: Current situation and recommendations - Report, The environmental compliance assurance system in the Republic of Moldova: Current situation and recommendations - Report, Developing environmental liability legislation in the Republic of Moldova - Brochure “Environmental compliance assurance in the Eastern Partner countries” (forthcoming)
<p>17:00-17:40 (Chişinău time)</p>	<p>Preparations for COP29 and brief presentations on OECD publications on finance for sustainable infrastructure</p> <p>This session invites the Azerbaijani COP29 Presidency to share its updates on the preparation for the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to be held in Baku in November 2024.</p> <p>Following this presentation, the session also provides short presentations on selected recent work on green finance which is not covered in other thematic sessions, but are relevant to the COP and of broader interest to members of the GREEN Action Task Force.</p> <p>The Task Force members are invited to take note and ask questions on the publications.</p> <p>Remarks on COP29 preparation and green transition policy in Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Farida Alakbarova, Head of subdivision, Environmental policy division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan <p>OECD Secretariat presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major outcomes and conclusions from a recent regional conference on Financing the Green and Net-Zero Transition in the EU Eastern Partnership Countries and Central Asia • Report, OECD (2023) Financing Uzbekistan’s Green Transition: Capital Market Development and Opportunities for Green Bond Issuance • Findings from SIPA work on Renewable Hydrogen in Mongolia
<p>18:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cocktails/Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova</p>
<p>DAY 2</p> <p>[Welcome coffee/tea provided at the venue]</p> <p>17 April 2024</p>	
<p>09:30-11:00 (Chişinău time)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Item 4: Selected focus topic: Financing water in EECCA</p> <p>Taking stock of the work carried out since 2019, this session will look at the progress made through the EU4Environment Water and Data programme, notably on Natural-based Solutions, as well as findings from the OECD work on Enabling Environment Water Financing carried out in 3 EaP countries (Armenia, Moldova and Georgia), and an update on the extension of the analysis in Central Asian countries, notably Uzbekistan. This session will also highlight the work carried out under the Water-Energy-Land-use nexus (NEXUS) project in Central Asia and an update on the OECD work on water tariff regulation in Ukraine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Republic of Moldova</p>

	<p>Scene-setting presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Secretariat <p>Roundtable discussion</p> <p><u>Panel of interventions from the region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Maia Javakhishvili, Deputy Head, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia • Ms Victoria Gratii, Head of Policies Department, Integrated Water Resource Management, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova • Representative of Armenia (tbc) • Mr Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria. Programme lead for EU4Environment Water and Data • Representative of Ministry of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan (tbc) <p><u>Panel of interventions by development partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE • Mr Ivo Marcin, Senior Director, State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic (online) • Representative of the European Commission, DG Environment (tbc) <p>Q&A and open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are opportunities to accelerate finance for water in the EECCA region ? • How can finance for water also support EECCA countries in promoting broader policy agendas such as food security, energy security, biodiversity protection? • How can the GREEN Action Task Force further support the countries in this direction? <p>Reflection from the Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Republic of Moldova <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat PPT opening presentation [Link to be uploaded to the meeting website]
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00 (Chişinău time)	<p>Item 5: Selected focus topic: Mobilising finance for biodiversity protection in EECCA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: <i>Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Germany</i></p> <p>In December 2022, EECCA countries, along with other Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Discussions at the recent Annual Meeting of the Task Force, held in Istanbul in June 2023, and the subsequent informal brainstorming session and Bureau meeting of the Task Force, provided additional input from Task Force members and biodiversity experts. Among the proposals made by members and experts was the suggestion that the OECD Secretariat assess key drivers for biodiversity loss across the EECCA region. This assessment aims to help countries better understand such drivers and identify investment priorities to support their actions in addressing these drivers.</p> <p>This session aims to present the initial findings of the assessment and facilitate discussions among participants on these findings. It also aims to exchange good practice examples and lessons learned regarding biodiversity financing mechanisms in the EECCA region, also possibly from outside the region. Further, the session will generate inputs for developing the Task Force's work for the period 2025-2026, to effectively support the EECCA countries and their development partners in mobilising finance for biodiversity in the region.</p>

	<p>Scene-setting presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Secretariat <p>Key findings of an assessment of drivers for biodiversity loss in EECCA</p> <p>Round discussion</p> <p><u>Panel of interventions from the region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jusipbek Kazbekov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (online) • Mr Mansur Oshurbaev, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan (tbc) • Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair, Republic of Moldova (tbc) • Representative of an EaP country (tbc) <p><u>Panel of interventions from development partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President, the Slovak Republic • Ms Katrine Zimmer, Special Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden (online) • Mr Adonai Herrera-Martinez, Director, Environment and Sustainability, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (online) • Mr Nicolas Tremblay, Task Team Leader, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) (online) <p>Q&A and open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be priority geographical or thematic areas for promoting biodiversity finance in your country or partner countries? • What kind of analytical or capacity development work by the GREEN Action Task Force could be helpful for your effort to mobilise finance for biodiversity? • What evidence will be needed to translate the increasing political interest on biodiversity protection into financing and investment? How can the Task Force support the countries in doing so? • <p>Reflection from Moderator</p> <p>Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Germany</p> <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room document: Background note for Item 5 Mobilising finance for biodiversity protection in EECCA
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:00 (Chişinău time)	<p>Brief presentations on recent OECD publications on green economy transition in EECCA</p> <p>This session aims to provide short presentations on selected recent publications which are not covered by the above thematic sessions. The Task Force members are invited to take note and ask questions on the publications.</p> <p>OECD presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment at a Glance in the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Indicators to measure progress towards green transformation • Ukrainians and climate policies: What are Ukrainians' preferences for using carbon revenues? • Greening the Economy in Uzbekistan: State of Play in 2023: Monitoring progress based on the OECD Green Growth Indicator <p>Meeting documents:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuweg, I. (2023), "Ukrainians and climate policies: What are Ukrainians' preferences for using carbon revenues?", <i>OECD Environment Working Papers</i>, No. 229, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/00c8ec08-en. • Neuweg, I., et al. (2023), "Review of environmental taxation and environmental expenditure in Ukraine", <i>OECD Environment Working Papers</i>, No. 231, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/921319bc-en. • Report: Greening the Economy in Uzbekistan: State of Play in 2023.
15:00-16:30 (Chişinău time)	<p>Item 6: Presentation of the proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2026</p> <p>Moderator: Moderator: Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Germany</p> <p>Following the brief introduction to the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2025-2026 made on Day 1, this session invites Task Force members to share their views on different elements of the new Programme and to provide questions and suggestions regarding the way forward for finalising the development of the Programme.</p> <p>OECD Secretariat introduction</p> <p>Roundtable of the GATF members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your views on the work proposed for 2025-26? • In your opinion, which areas require more focus and resources? • In your opinion, are there areas that you would like to see fewer efforts on? • In your opinion, is there an area of work that is crucial for the GREEN Action Task Force to develop? • What additional steps could be taken to reinforce the impacts, practical results and benefits of co-operation under the Task Force? <p>Meeting documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Programme of Work and Budget of the GREEN Action Task Force for 2025-2026 [Link to be uploaded to the meeting website]
16:30-17:00 (Chişinău time)	<p>Item 7: Other business and closing remarks</p> <p>Closing remarks by the Co-chairs and the Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Yuval Laster, Head, Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, OECD • Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair, Germany • Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, GREEN Action Task Force Co-chair, Republic of Moldova <p>Closing remarks by the host country, Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sergiu Lazarencu, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova