

# Eighth Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE  
UN ENVIRONNEMENT POUR L'EUROPE  
ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ  
გარემო ევროპისათვის

BATUMI, 8-10 June 2016



## Batumi, Georgia, 08-10 June 2016

Zaal Lomtadze  
Secretary to the Conference



**UNECE**

# EfE: History

- EfE process launched in 1991
- Has been supporting countries' efforts to advance in environmental governance
- Unique partnership of:
  - Member States within the ECE region
  - Organizations of the United Nations system represented in the region
  - Other intergovernmental organizations and bodies
  - Regional Environmental Centres
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - The private sector
  - Other major groups
- ECE has been closely associated with the EfE process since its inception and serves as its secretariat

# EfE: the Process

- The process and its ministerial conferences provide an effective high-level platform for stakeholders
- At the same time, the process focuses on supporting the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in their efforts to raise environmental standards and comply with international commitments
- The process continues to provide the framework for the development of:
  - governance policies and initiatives
  - legal instruments and policies
  - practical actions and tools

# EfE: Achievements (the survey of 2014)

- The main achievements of the EfE process include:
  - a) Four assessments on the state of the environment in the pan-European region (Dobris, Aarhus, Kyiv and Belgrade assessments) and an assessment of environmental assessments (Astana);
  - b) Setting up institutional mechanisms for cooperation (establishing the Environmental Action Programme Task Force (EAP Task Force), the Project Preparation Committee and the Regional Environmental Centres);
  - c) Acting as a driving force for developing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other environmental policy instruments, and promoting their implementation;
  - d) Launching the ECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme for ECE member countries that are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;
  - e) Promoting cross-sectoral activities and policy integration (energy efficiency, education for sustainable development (ESD), and greening the economy);
  - f) Enhancing cooperation between Governments and civil society organizations

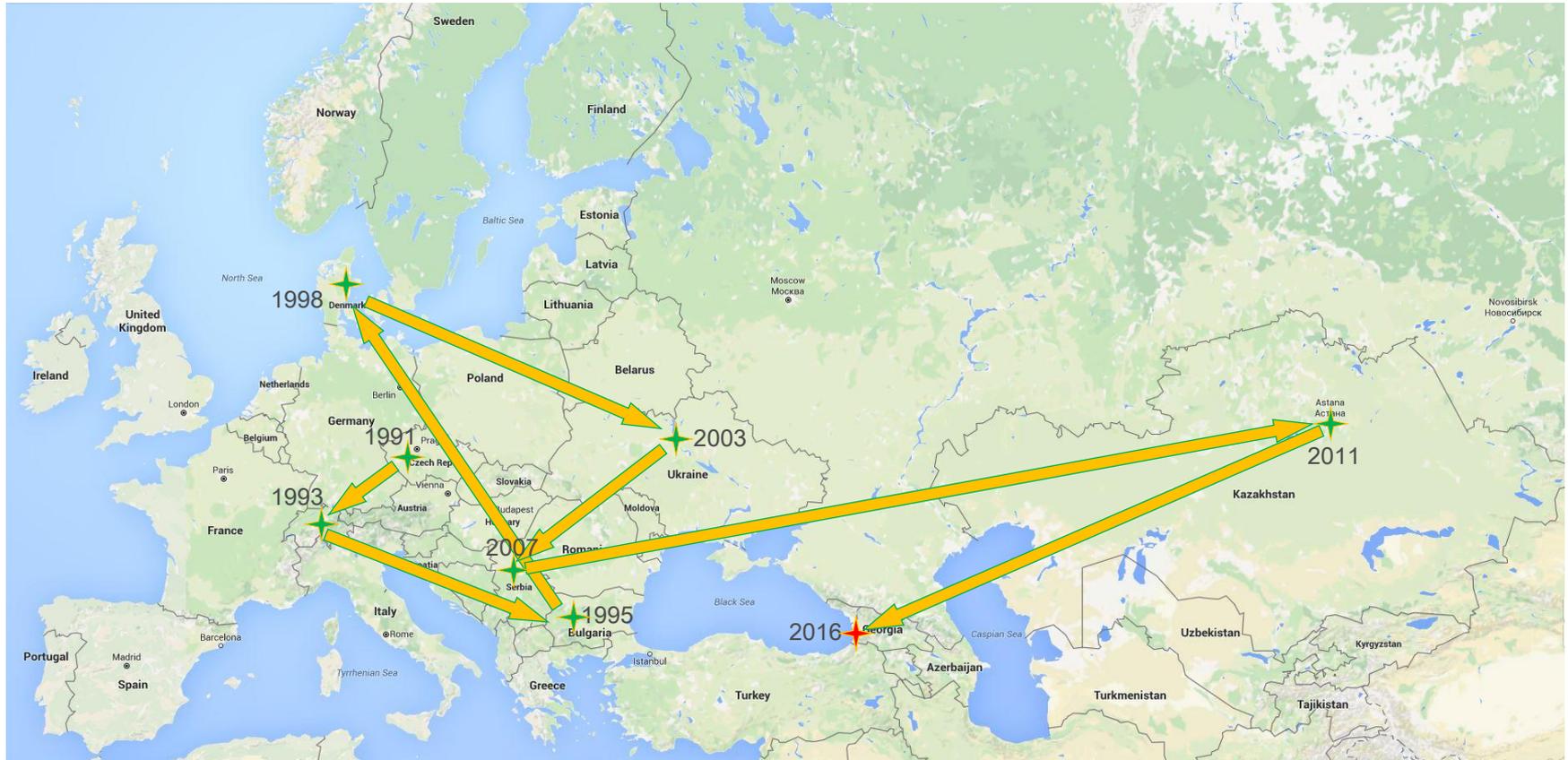
# EfE: Outcomes

- The ECE Programme on Environmental Performance Reviews;
- The ECE programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;
- The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
- The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention);
- The Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- The Pan-European Strategy to Phase-out Leaded Petrol;
- The ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;
- The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context;
- The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention;
- The Protocol on Civil Liability to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention);
- The Environment Strategy for Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries;
- The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
- a series of guidelines and recommendations to Governments.

# EfE: Ministerial Conferences

- So far 7 Ministerial conferences have been held:
  - Dobris (1991)
  - Lucerne (1993)
  - Sofia (1995)
  - Aarhus (1998)
  - Kyiv (2003)
  - Belgrade (2007)
  - Astana (2011)
  - Next - Batumi (2016)

# EfE: Conferences' Map



# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Themes

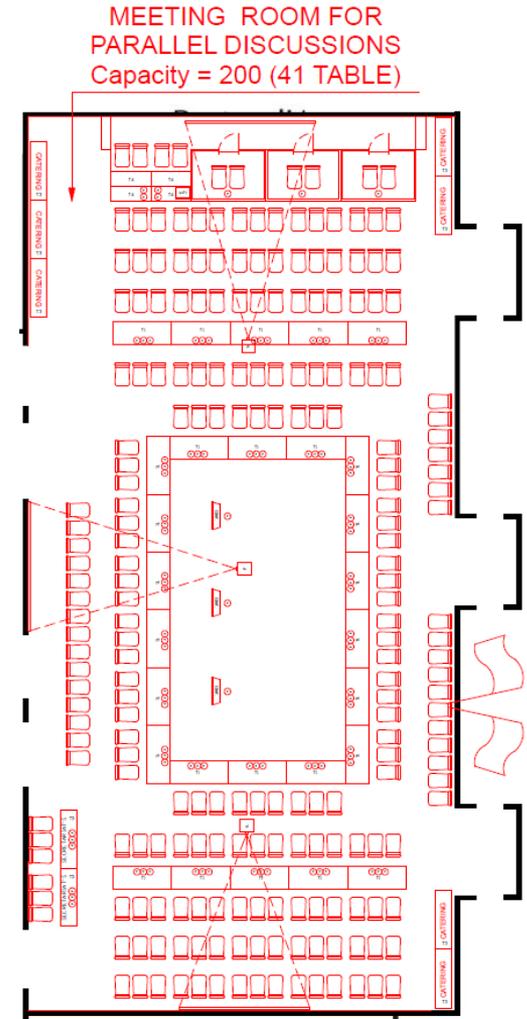
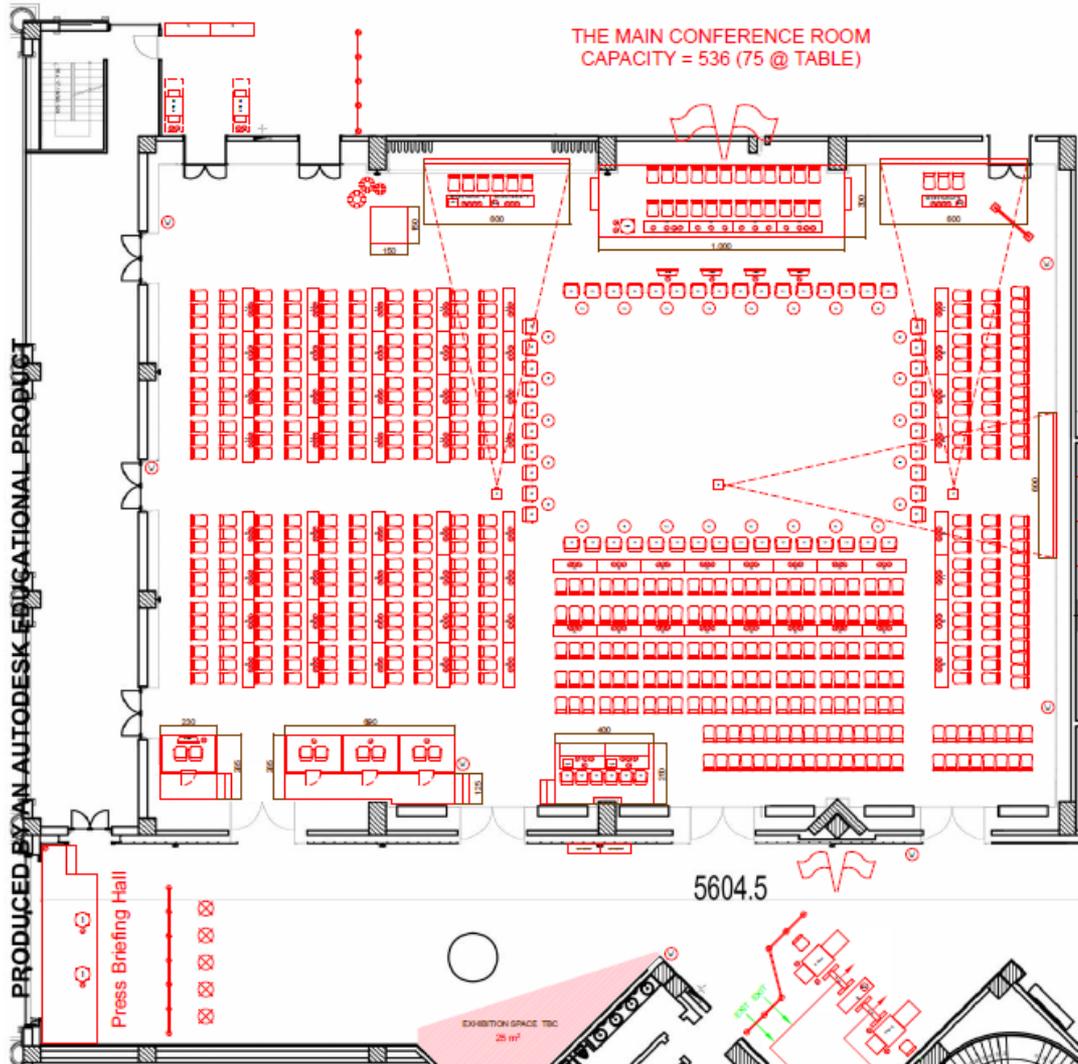
- Two main themes:
  - greening the economy in the pan-European region
  - improving air quality for a better environment and human health
- High-level Segment:
  - on the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development
- Also discussing:
  - Developing the Shared Environmental Information System across the pan-European region
  - Pan-European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook, a joint collaboration of UNEP and UNECE
  - The assessment report under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
  - The second and final report on the implementation of the Astana Water Action

# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Agenda

Organization of work for the Eighth Environment for Europe  
Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016)

Wednesday, 8 June	Thursday, 9 June	Friday, 10 June
	<b>Side events (8.15–9.45 a.m.)</b>	<b>Side events (8.15–9.45 a.m.)</b>
<b>1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda</b> (plenary, 9.30–10.30 a.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Opening ceremony</li> <li>– Adoption of the agenda</li> </ul>	<b>4. Greening the economy in the pan-European region</b> (plenary and interactive discussion, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)  <i>Questions for discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Opportunities and challenges</li> <li>(b) Paths to sustainability</li> <li>(c) Green incentives</li> <li>(d) Cooperation</li> </ul>	<b>6. Reporting on the outcomes of the thematic sessions</b> (plenary, 10–11.30 a.m.)  <b>7. Adoption of Conference outcomes</b> (plenary, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.)  <b>8. Closure of the Conference</b> (plenary, 12.30–1 p.m.)
<b>2. The environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — moving forward in the pan-European region:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <b>Multilateral environmental agreements, mechanisms, policies and institutions supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (interactive discussion, 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ECE multilateral environmental agreements, environmental performance reviews, EAP Task Force, Regional Environmental Centres, Astana Water Action</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Family photograph of Heads of Delegation (12.30–1 p.m.)</b>  <b>Lunch break (12.30–3 p.m.), side events (1.10–2.50 p.m.)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) <b>Keeping the pan-European environment under review</b> (interactive discussion, 3–4.30 p.m.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– SEIS progress</li> <li>– Launch of the European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Lunch break (1–3 p.m.), side events (1.10–2.50 p.m.)</b>  <b>5. Improving air quality for a better environment and human health</b> (plenary and interactive discussion, 3–6 p.m.)  <i>Questions for discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Pollutants and policies</li> <li>(b) Sectors and funding</li> <li>(c) Public awareness and participation</li> <li>(d) Cooperation</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Towards a new society: 10 years of education for sustainable development</b> (plenary and interactive discussions, 4.30–6 p.m.)  <b>Official events/side events (6.15–8.15 p.m.)</b>	<b>Official events/side events (6.15–8.15 p.m.)</b>	

# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Interactive setup



# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Expected outcomes

- Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy
- Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)
  - specific commitments
- Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
  - specific commitments
- Batumi Ministerial Declaration
- Ministerial Statement on ESD
- Framework for the future implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development
- *Chair's summary*
- *Chair's summary on ESD*

# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Figures

(still counting!)

- As of May 2:
  - More than 500 delegates registered (excluding UNECE and Host Country)
  - 40 national delegations + EC
  - > 30 Ministers and State Secretaries
  - Many UN and other international organizations
  - NGOs, academia, business
  - 31 side-events (number had to be limited due to the decision not to run side-events in parallel to the Conference sessions)
  - 7 thematic exhibitions

# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Site



# 8<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial: Site



# More information at:

- [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org) – UNECE secretariat
  - (UNECE -> Environmental Policy -> Environment for Europe -> EfE Conferences -> Batumi Conference -> Welcome)
- [www.efebatumi.com](http://www.efebatumi.com) – Host Country Secretariat
- [efe@unece.org](mailto:efe@unece.org) – EfE secretariat

**Thank you!**



**GREENER, CLEANER, SMARTER!**