

UNECE

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Environmental Performance Reviews



Third Review



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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Third Review



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ECE Information Unit
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@un.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org>

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Foreword

It is essential to monitor progress towards environmental sustainability and to evaluate how countries reconcile environmental and economic targets and meet their international environmental commitments. Through regular monitoring and evaluation, countries may more effectively stay ahead of emerging environmental issues, improve their environmental performance and be accountable to their citizens. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme provides valuable assistance to member States by regularly assessing their environmental performance. Countries can then take steps to improve their environmental management, integrate environmental considerations into economic sectors, increase the availability of information to the public and promote information exchange with other countries on policies and experiences.

Recently, new instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, have been negotiated and adopted to address sustainable development challenges. ECE peer review mechanisms, including the Environmental Performance Reviews, play an important role in assessing how well countries are addressing such challenges and meeting their commitments, both old and new. These mechanisms will also continue to provide an opportunity to evaluate whether policies are achieving results, whether there might be better ways to do so and how to address any shortcomings.

The third Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina brings together a wealth of information to build a picture of the country's environmental governance and performance – in terms of both achievements and shortcomings. I trust that this third review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and further promote sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ECE wishes the governmental authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting the country's environmental objectives, including the implementation of the recommendations in the third review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in Bosnia and Herzegovina will benefit other countries throughout the ECE region and facilitate the achievement and monitoring of the SDGs.

Olga Algayerova



Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

This third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina takes stock of progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2010 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review. It covers issues of specific importance to the country related to legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and protected areas and protection of the Adriatic Sea. It also examines the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the forestry sector.

The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. The review also highlights challenges to be addressed by Bosnia and Herzegovina when implementing the globally-agreed SDGs.

The third EPR of Bosnia and Herzegovina began in February 2017 with a preparatory mission to agree on the structure of the report and the schedule for its completion. A team of international experts took part in the review mission from 28 March to 5 April 2017. In October 2017, the draft report was submitted to Bosnia and Herzegovina for comments and to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 24 and 25 October 2017, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts. The recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-third session on 16 November 2017. A high-level delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the peer review and the Committee adopted the recommendations in this report.

The Committee and the ECE secretariat are grateful to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and assistance. ECE would also like to express its appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency for their support by providing funds through the Advisory Assistance Programme, and to Switzerland for its financial contribution. Sincere thanks also go to France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for having provided their experts and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its support of this review.

ECE also takes this opportunity to thank Portugal and Switzerland for their general financial support to the EPR Programme in 2017 and expresses its deep appreciation to Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Switzerland for having provided their experts for the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook the expert review of this report.

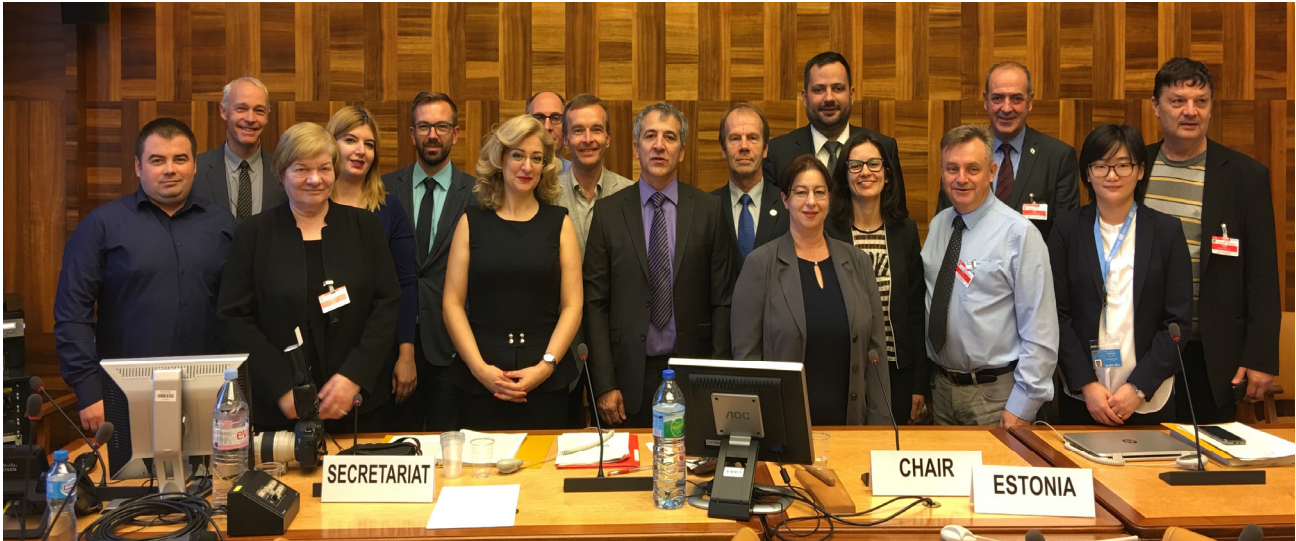
TEAM MEMBERS



Mr. Antoine Nunes	ECE	Team leader
Mr. Yaroslav Bulych	ECE	Project coordinator
Mr. Jyrki Hirvonen	ECE	Introduction
Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia	ECE	Chapter 1
Ms. Kaja Peterson	Estonia	Chapter 2
Mr. Paolo Angelini	Italy	Chapter 3
Ms. Cristina Brandimarte	Italy	Chapter 3
Mr. Filip Aggestam	ECE	Chapter 4
Ms. Elisabete Quintas	Portugal	Chapter 5
Mr. Yaroslav Bulych	ECE	Chapter 6
Mr. Cornelis Braams	ECE consultant	Chapter 7
Mr. António Guerreiro de Brito	Portugal	Chapter 8
Mr. Fernando Anjos Ferreira	Portugal	Chapter 8
Mr. Yves Henocque	ECE consultant	Chapter 9
Mr. András Guti	Hungary	Chapter 10
Ms. Amina Omicevic	UNEP	Chapter 11
Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa	ECE	Chapter 12

Mrs. Ehlimana Alibegovic contributed to data and indicators collection and to arrangements for institutional interviews for the chapter on greening the economy. Mr. Milic Curovic was involved in drafting some parts of the chapter on forestry and environment.

EXPERT GROUP FOR THE THIRD EPR OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Ms. Marina Philipiyuk	Belarus	Expert Group
Mr. Harry Liiv	Estonia	Expert Group
Ms. Mariam Makarova	Georgia	Expert Group
Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann	Germany	Expert Group
Mr. Andras Guti	Hungary	Expert Group
Ms. Alessandra Fidanza	Italy	Expert Group
Ms. Olivera Kujundzic	Montenegro	Expert Group
Mr. Adrian Panciuc	Republic of Moldova	Expert Group
Ms. Luminita Ghita	Romania	Expert Group
Mr. Xavier Tschumi Canosa	Switzerland	Expert Group
Ms. Christine Kitzler	ECE	Invited reviewer
Ms. Carolin Sanz Noriega	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Florian Steierer	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Michael Kunz	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Senad Oprasic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Head of Delegation
Mr. Mehmed Cero	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Delegation
Mr. Ozren Laganin	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Delegation
Mr. Stanco Stancic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Delegation

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