

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE REGIONAL ACCESSION NETWORK (ECRAN)**

**Annual Meeting ECRAN Climate Component**

Istanbul

21 January 2016, 9:30 – 16:00

Dear Climate Coordinator,

The past five years of climate-related activities, carried out firstly through the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) and now through ECRAN, mark a shift from raising climate awareness on climate legislation and policy to hands-on practical work and assistance on IPA project development. All these helped climate issues becoming more prominent on political agenda of all the EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates. Building administrative capacity to tackle climate action has been one of the major objectives in this process, also to assist with the challenges of the EU enlargement process, countries economic development as well as the obligations in the international context.

The countries now need to develop robust and comprehensive climate policies fully aligned with the EU Climate *acquis*, including the GHG emission reduction targets consistent with the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies. To support this and to improve alignment with EU climate policies and legislation, efforts to promote convergence with EU climate legislation will be stepped up.

As a result of our joint efforts and hard work we can now see significant positive developments. We have established a common platform to promote robust climate action and co-operation. Awareness-raising as well as closer cross-sectorial co-operation with colleagues in energy, transport and other related policy areas was fostered. This is a great first step in mainstreaming climate into other policy areas.

The ECRAN climate activities were implemented under the four Working Groups:

- Working Group 1: Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness
- Working Group 2: Greenhouse gasses (GHG) and EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR)
- Working Group 3: Emissions Trading System (ETS)
- Working Group 4: Climate Adaptation

In 2015, much of the work in the WG 1 was implemented in the framework the Paris Climate Conference – COP 21 that was held in December 2015. Regional and national high-level dialogues were held on the development of the so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Views were exchanged on preparations for the Paris Climate Conference and opportunities for joint messaging during the COP 21 were discussed. All ECRAN beneficiaries have prepared their INDCs and indicated their own expectations and priorities from the new climate agreement. ECRAN has assisted the INDC development in Albania and Montenegro.

In addition a capacity building programme has started to address low carbon and/or carbon neutral strategies through a regional exercise, with a special focus on the application of modelling, scenario



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development as well as tools for the preparation and implementation of low emission strategies. In this context training has been provided for countries to work with the LEAP modelling platform for measuring impacts of energy strategies in the countries.

Work also continued on training and capacity building activities focusing on converging with the EU Climate *acquis* in all ECRAN beneficiary countries, in close cooperation and coordination with TAIEX. This is particularly true for capacity building on the inventory processes in the framework of the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR). Capacity building on the EU ETS and other EU climate legislation was provided through the targeted workshops, hands-on assistance missions and study tours. Furthermore, ECRAN has been exploring the benefits that working with the Climate Adapt Support Tool (Climate-Adapt) could bring to the countries in development of their climate adaptation plans.

After five years of close co-operation the focus is now not only on the challenges ahead of us, but also on the opportunities and benefits that enhanced cooperation with the EU on climate change will bring. I am very grateful for your, ECRAN experts' and the European Commission's (DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG NEAR - TAIEX) commitment and efforts during this period.

The detailed description of activities which have been carried under the ECRAN Climate component is on our website at:

<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Climate>

As the ECRAN project is coming to a close in September 2016, it is now appropriate time to take stock of the progress made, and outline priorities and next steps. We would like to propose the following for discussion:

- Implications of the EU policy and legislation for the EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates;
- From Paris onwards: Implications of the global climate agreement in 2015;
- Lessons learnt from the ECRAN climate activities in the period 2013 - 2015;
- Key points for an ECRAN CLIMA work follow up.

In order to facilitate our discussion, an ECRAN Climate Concept Note was prepared on the basis of discussions which have taken place during the various ECRAN events, or in direct contact with the ECRAN Secretariat and the European Commission. This document will be sent to you at a later stage to allow you to prepare before the Annual meeting. In this context we would kindly like to draw your attention to the afternoon session, where we will provide an opportunity for a 10-minute commentary and suggestions as regards the Concept Note.

The proposed agenda is also attached to this letter.

We are looking forward to meeting you in **Istanbul on 21 January 2015**. The ECRAN Secretariat in Vienna will contact you in view of logistical arrangements for your participation.

Yours sincerely

Imre Csikós, ECRAN Climate



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Enclosed:

Annex 1. Draft Agenda

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>9.00 – 9.30 Registration and Coffee</b>		
9:30 9:45	Welcome and Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> <li>• Objectives of the meeting</li> <li>• Approval of the agenda</li> </ul>	Imre Csikós, ECRAN Climate Coordinator
9:45 – 10:45	COP 21 outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where we stand,</li> <li>• What is next,</li> <li>• What this means for EU Climate policy and legislation,</li> <li>• Implications for Accession countries</li> <li>• Status of NDCs</li> <li>• Discussion, Questions and Answers</li> </ul>	Ivana Mijatovic-Cernos, European Commission, DG Climate Action
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee	
11:00 - 11:30	Working Group 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in 2015</li> <li>• Outlook 2016 (this cycle)</li> <li>• Considerations for the next cycle of ECRAN</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	Jozsef Feiler, Working Group 1: Climate Policy and Climate Awareness
11:30 – 12:00	Working Group 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in 2015</li> <li>• Outlook 2016 (this cycle)</li> <li>• Considerations for the next cycle of ECRAN</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	Justin Goodwin, Working Group 2 : MMR
12:00 – 12:30	Working Group 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in 2015</li> <li>• Outlook 2016 (this cycle)</li> <li>• Considerations for the next cycle of ECRAN</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	Monique Voogt, Working Group 3: ETS



<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
12:30 – 13:00	Working Group 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in 2015</li> <li>• Outlook 2016 (this cycle)</li> <li>• Considerations for the next cycle of ECRAN</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	Rob Bakx, Working Group 4: Adaptation
13.00 – 14.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14.00 – 14.30	Non-Paper ECRAN next cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General points for consideration ECRAN Regional Climate Programme</li> <li>• Working groups and scope</li> <li>• Methods</li> </ul>	Imre Csikós, ECRAN
14.30 – 15.30	Discussion/Commentary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority needs</li> <li>• Means of implementation</li> <li>• Opportunities and benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania</li> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Croatia</li> <li>• former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> <li>• Kosovo*</li> <li>• Montenegro</li> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• Turkey</li> </ul>
15.30 – 16.00	Wrap Up and Conclusions	Imre Csikos, ECRAN Ivana Mijatovic Cernos, DG CLIMA

