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22.06.11 № 03-02-05 / 1361-4

**Mr. Jean-François Donzier
General Manager of the
International Office for Water
Secretary to the International
Network of Basin Organizations**

**Address: 21, rue de Madrid
75008 Paris
Country: France**

Your Excellency,

Environment is in the spotlight of the international community worldwide. To preserve the nature of the world humanity needs to switch to a sustainable development mode.

Kazakhstan strongly supports of the concept of "green" growth and steadily pursues the policy shift to the innovational and sustainable development.

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at the III Astana Economic Forum (July 2010, Astana), noted that "development of alternative energy and promotion of sustainable growth approach should be the new ideology".

Within this framework, Kazakhstan has successfully hosted the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (September-October 2010). This conference served as a platform for the presentation of the Astana "Green Bridge" Initiative (AIGB), aimed at establishing the Euro-Asia-Pacific Partnership to strengthen cooperation in the field of "green" growth. The AIGB was endorsed by the ESCAP Sixth Ministerial Conference, and will be further discussed during the **Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference**.

In this regard, it is my great honor to invite you to the **Seventh "Environment for Europe" Conference**, which will be held in Astana from **21 to 23 September 2011**.

The Conference will provide a high-level platform for cooperation to improve the environment and sustainable development in a pan-European region. The

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Conference will become an important forum for discussion of current environmental problems and a place for dialogue between Asia and Europe.

The Conference will bring together Ministers and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the business community.

Over two-and-a-half days the Conference will address two main themes: *Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems* and *Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development*. During the Conference three multi-stakeholder round-tables will debate on these two themes and on linkages between them. Outcomes of the round-tables will be considered at the end of the Conference and will feed into the Chair's Summary of the Conference. The Conference's agreed schedule, including questions for discussion, is enclosed with this letter.

The *Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments* report is under preparation for the Conference by the European Environment Agency in cooperation with UNECE and other "Environment for Europe" partners. It will assess existing environmental assessments on the Conference themes, processes and practices, identifying gaps, needs and priorities. In addition, background papers on each of the two Conference themes are being prepared to support the discussions and to facilitate decision-making.

The Conference outcomes will include a brief Ministerial Declaration and initiatives by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and for specific subregions.

In accordance with the outcomes of the ESCAP Sixth Ministerial Conference, Kazakhstan is presently developing jointly with interested partners a "Green Bridge" Partnership Programme.

The Partnership Program will stimulate the Euro-Asia-Pacific cooperation on environment protection and "green growth". Kazakhstan will submit the Partnership Program and expects to receive approval of the Programme and support for its implementation from the Conference.

In addition, Astana Water Action on sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems is under development by interested stakeholders to guide and support Governments' efforts in addressing this issue.

The provisional agenda and other Conference documents will be made available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe>).

In accordance with the agreed Conference organizational procedures delegations may include up to 10 people.

Your organization is expected to designate a national focal point who will collect and consolidate all registration forms for your national delegation and send them to the UNECE secretariat (efe@unece.org) by 15 July 2011.

The Conference will provide an excellent opportunity to promote your organizations relevant activities through side events and environmental exhibition. Information on modalities for these undertakings will be made available on the Ministry of the Environment Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan website (www.efekz.kz).

We believe that the Conference will confirm further improving the environmental performance based on the environmental assessment and reporting in the region and will provide a broader platform for Euro-Asian dialogue to promote cooperation in environmental protection.

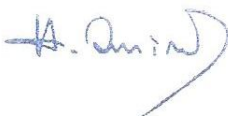
Taking this opportunity, I would like to express assurances of my highest consideration and hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Looking forward to welcome you in Astana.

Sincerely,

**Minister of the Environment Protection
of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Nurgali Ashim



Additional information:

Information on the organization of the conference, including accommodation, will be available on the website of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Kazakhstan: www.efekz.kz. For more information about the substantive preparations for the Conference, please visit <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html> and contact the UNECE secretariat by e-mail: efe@unece.org.

Requests for information on the preparations for the host country of the conference can be sent to:

Aigul Murat – aigulmurat@mail.ru, tel. +7 7172 740866

Gulsara Eskendirova - gyeskendirova@mail.ru, tel. +7 7172 798338.

e-mail: Lvshabanova@mail.ru, green_bridge_office@mail.ru

Annex 1.

Draft Programme of the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"

Annex 2.

Registration form for participation in the Conference

Annex

Schedule and questions for discussions for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Astana, 21–23 September 2011

Wednesday, 21 September	Thursday, 22 September	Friday, 23 September
<p>Registration (9 a.m.–2 p.m.)</p> <p>Greening-the-conference-related events for the Heads of Delegation organized by the host country, such as planting trees, riding bikes, etc. (11 a.m.–noon.)</p> <p>Lunch break / side events: noon–2 p.m.</p> <p>1. Opening of the Conference (plenary, 2–4 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening ceremony - Adoption of the agenda <p>2. The EfE process: 20 years of pan-European cooperation (plenary, 4–6 p.m.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of the EfE process (20th anniversary) - Astana Green Bridge Initiative - Presentation of EE AoA - Presentation of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters - Statements by Ministers and high-level representatives of the private sector and civil society, with an emphasis on the findings of EE AoA <p>Official events / side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	<p>3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems (one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Which policies proved to be effective to value and protect water-related ecosystems, including payment for ecosystem services? What are the main obstacles and gaps? (b) What policies proved to be effective in addressing human health issues related to water quality and quantity? What are the main obstacles and gaps? (c) What are the priorities/challenges in adapting management of water and water-related ecosystems to extreme weather events and to climate change? (d) What are the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation in transboundary basins to improve water quality, manage water quantity and protect ecosystems? <p>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <p>4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy (one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 3–6 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What policy mixes and practical tools, such as IWRM, pricing, standards and water users associations, can be most effective to improve water efficiency by different water users, especially in agriculture, households and industrial operations? (b) How can we encourage investments to take into account the impacts on water quantity and water quality, energy and resource efficiency and vulnerable populations? <p>Official event — establishment of Environmental Information System (SEIS) / side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	<p>5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development (one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</p> <p><u>Questions for discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What policy mixes have the potential to secure the achievement of a green, inclusive and competitive economy, through an integrated approach, including sectors such as transport, housing, energy, agriculture and education? (b) How can resource efficiency improve sustainability and competitiveness in local, regional and global markets? (c) How can research, innovation and investment help the transition towards a green economy? (d) How could the “Environment for Europe” process contribute to outcomes on green economy in the context of UNCED 2012 (Rio+20)? <p>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <p>6. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussions under the thematic sessions (plenary, 3–4.30 p.m.)</p> <p>7. Adoption of Conference outcomes (plenary, 4.30–5.30 p.m.)</p> <p>8. Closure of the Conference (plenary, 5.30–6 p.m.)</p> <p>Official events / side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>



REGISTRATION FORM FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS

The Form should be sent by e-mail: efe@unece.org by **13 June 2011**. Please use Latin font only.

I AM ATTENDING: (tick one or both of the boxes)

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy meeting (20 Sep 2011) The Ministerial Conference (21-23 September 2011)

TITLE (Ms / Mr)	
FIRST NAME	
SURNAME (LAST NAME)	
PASSPORT NUMBER	
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH	
CITIZENSHIP	
POSITION / TITLE	
ORGANIZATION NAME	
ADDRESS	
COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE	
FAX	
E-MAIL	
WEBSITE	

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION:

Government (the Registration Form should be attached to the official letter of nomination):	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intergovernmental:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>

HEAD OF DELEGATION:	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER MEMBER OF DELEGATION:	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TRAVEL INFORMATION:

Date of arrival to Astana:		Time:		Flight №:	
Date of departure from Astana:		Time:		Flight №:	

Do you need a personal invitation for visa purposes:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If you are carrying firearms, please inform about their type and number and enclose a copy of your authorization to carry a firearm:

Coloured picture in electronic format (either insert a picture in electronic format or use a paper picture and then scan the entire Registration Form)

3.5cm x 4.5cm

For Conference documents and materials, consult: <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html>

For information on accommodation and other logistical matters, consult: [insert the host country website]

Note: For reference, please consult part I on "Participation" of the document on organizational issues for the Astana Efe Conference (ECE/CEP/2010/2) available on the website at: <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2010/ece/cep/ece.cep.2010.2.e.pdf>