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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: 3rd High-Level Meeting of Education Ministers
In the framework of 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference,
Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7 October 2022
- Information from the Cyprus delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Cyprus delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 4-5 April 2022.

CONCEPT NOTE**3rd High-Level Meeting of Education Ministers**

*In the framework of 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7
October 2022*

The 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus from the 5th to the 7th of October, 2022. The Ministerial Conference is organized, for the first time in the Mediterranean Region, by the Republic of Cyprus, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Anastasiades. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth is the leading organizer on behalf of the host country, in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which acts as the Secretariat for the Environment for Europe process since 1991, and for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), since 2005.

The Ministerial Conference is held every five years and it brings together Ministers of Education and Ministers for the Environment. The Nicosia Conference main strands are Education for sustainable development (education sector) and sustainable tourism and circular economy (environment and tourism sector). The event will attract high-level delegations from more than 70 countries, including countries of the UNECE, the Mediterranean Region, the Middle East and Asia. Around 1000 participants from public, private, academia, youth and business sector, and from civil society organizations, are expected to attend the event. Beside the plenary sessions, more than 40 side-events on the main strands of the Ministerial Conference will be organized, as well as thematic exhibitions.

In the framework of the conference, the 3rd High-Level Meeting of Education Ministers, will take place. The Ministers will address the issues of ESD in the region, and propose the new UNECE ESD Strategy policy framework implementation 2021-2030, which is aligned with the European initiative of Learning for Sustainability and the UNESCO ESD roadmap 2030. They will also adopt the Nicosia Ministerial Statement on ESD.

The Green transition is a key EU priority to address the threats of climate change and environmental degradation. We are confident that this Ministerial Conference will provide the platform for renewed political interest on ESD, as a fundamental driver for more resilient, prosperous and sustainable societies.

Minister Prodromos Prodromou will inform his colleagues during the April EYCS Council about this important High-Level Event hosted by Cyprus and will extend an invitation to EU Ministers and the Commission.