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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 25 and 26 November 2024: MED9 Ministerial Summit for Education for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in the Mediterranean Region (Limassol, 27 June 2024) <i>- Information from Cyprus</i>

MED9 Ministerial Summit for Education for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in the Mediterranean Region (Limassol, 27 June 2024)

In the framework of the MED9 initiative, the Ministers and high-level officials of the nine Mediterranean EU countries convened in Limassol, on 27 June 2024. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the UNECE Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Ministers of the Mediterranean countries discussed ways to strengthen ESD in the region, aiming to position ESD as a key driver for the green transition and for the creation of more resilient, just, and sustainable societies. Recognising the fact that the Mediterranean Region faces pressing environmental and socioeconomic challenges, which require urgent, coherent, coordinated and effective action at all governance levels - from global and regional/Mediterranean to national and local - they reiterated their will for and commitment to stronger actions via education.

The MED9 Ministers talked about the progress made in their countries on ESD, mentioning improvements in curricula and extracurricular activities, including outdoor and non-formal activities, where the involvement of stakeholders was noted. In addition, they coincided on the necessity of implementing ESD at all educational levels, including higher education and vocational education and training. Moreover, they all agreed on the importance of the priorities identified in the Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy on ESD, adopted at the 2nd High-Level meeting of the Ministers of Education, which took place in Cyprus on 6 October 2022, during the 9th Ministerial ‘Environment for Europe’ Conference. They highlighted as the most urgent themes climate-change education, linked to energy use reduction, efficiency and the shift to renewable energies, biodiversity/nature/ecosystem conservation and restoration, the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus and ocean literacy.

The Ministers agreed to continue their close cooperation and strengthen their ESD efforts towards: (a) ensuring deeper understanding, wider and better dissemination and implementation of the Whole School Approach and Whole Institution Approach to ESD; (b) achieving a balanced twinning process by promoting digital and green/sustainable learning; and (c) strengthening cooperation, networking and financing for ESD.

Cyprus aspires to continue cooperation on ESD between the MED9 countries and among all EU Member States, both at level of exchange of information and for more coordinated and constructive initiatives.