

# Template<sup>i</sup> for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

*To be filled in by submitting country/organization*

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1. **Country or organization:** Malta
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)<sup>ii</sup> that the initiative will contribute to):** Improving our Air Quality for our coastal communities and surrounding areas.
3. **Description of the action:** Government will be committing for a multimillion environmental investment to develop the electricity infrastructure for cruise liners and cargo ships to switch off their gasoil- or heavy-fuel-oil-fired engines and plug in to shoreside electricity to energise their onboard systems whilst they are berthed at our ports and harbour area which is a growing economic industry for an island dependent on its seas.  
  
**Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to December 2025
4. **Type of action<sup>iii</sup>:** Legal/Regulatory, Economic, capacity building
5. **Economic sectors<sup>iv</sup>:** Environment / Planning and coastal infrastructure sectors
6. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** Infrastructure Malta: Grand Harbour Clean Air Project
7. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** This project, will drastically reduce the emissions of cruise ships visiting Malta. By switching off the ship's auxiliary engines, cruise liners will emit 93% less nitrogen oxides, 92.6% less particulate matter and 99.6% less sulphur dioxide. These pollutants are among the principal causes of respiratory illnesses and other health problems. The installation of this facility will also cut 39.6% of the cruise liners' carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to the climate emergency response required to lower carbon intensity within major economic industries.  
  
SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** Not Applicable

8. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Total reduced emissions by visiting cruise liners and other vessels
9. **Partners:** Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, Infrastructure Malta, Planning Authority and Environment and Resources Authority
10. **Contact points:**  
  
Perit Janice Borg,  
Head Maritime Unit,  
Infrastructure Malta.

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** (YES)
  - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure<sup>v</sup>” does the action contribute:*

- Strategic planning;
  - Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
  - Resource efficiency and circularity;
  - Enhancing economic benefits;
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** (YES )

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<sup>i</sup> Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).  
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

<sup>ii</sup> Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

<sup>iii</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

<sup>iv</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

<sup>v</sup> The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>