

Practical guide

The Environment Council was established by Sovereign Ordinance No. 8.157, dated 16 July 2020, in accordance with the Environment Code. Its remit is to express a binding opinion on the establishment of natural reserves, non-emergency regulatory measures affecting animal and plant populations, and the introduction or reintroduction of land or aquatic species into the natural environment.

It will also rule on the ministerial decree establishing the list of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) obtained using techniques that, due to their natural character, are not considered to involve genetic modification.

In addition, it will be able to offer a view on all draft legislation relating to environmental protection, actions to inform and raise awareness among the public, and any measure taken by the Minister of State in relation to energy conservation or incentives for renewable energy or to develop replacements for fossil fuels.

The Environment Council, chaired by Marie-Pierre Gramaglia, Minister of Public Works, the Environment and Urban Development, is made up of:

- The Minister of the Interior or their representative
- The Minister of Finance and Economy or their representative
- The Minister of Health and Social Affairs or their representative
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation or their representative
- The President of the National Council or their representative
- The Mayor or their representative
- The Chair of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council or their representative
- The Vice President of the Prince Albert II Foundation or their representative
- The Director of Legal Affairs or their representative
- The Director of the Environment or their representative
- An independent expert has also been appointed to the Council: Grégoire Leray, who holds a PhD in Environmental Law and is a professor at the University of Nice-Côte d'Azur
- Secretarial support is provided by the Department of the Environment

The Environment Council meets in plenary session at least once per year, while its limited composition and more operational operating model means that it can respond to emergency requests, particularly with respect to regulatory measures affecting animal and plant populations.