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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials  
“Environment for Europe”  
(first session, Geneva, 29 September 2000)  
(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

**Proposed schedule of preparatory meetings for the Kiev Conference**

1. Prior to the Aarhus Conference, the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials met five times and the Executive Committee, fourteen times. (See annex for details.)
2. One of the concerns, expressed by the Ministers at Aarhus (Denmark), was the need for an efficient and cost-effective structure for the “Environment for Europe” process. Specifically, the Ministers stated that “[T]he progress since Sofia in reducing the number of preparatory meetings shall be maintained.” The Working Group may consider that the Executive Committee in particular may hold fewer meetings during this preparatory process.
3. Communication and interaction among the Executive Committee’s members could, during periods between meetings, take place electronically, with the support of the ECE secretariat.
4. The following is a preliminary proposal for the schedule of the Working Group and its Executive Committee from the current session until the convening of the Kiev Conference.

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**Proposed schedule of preparatory meetings for the Kiev Conference**

<b>Committee on Environmental Policy</b>	<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Seventh session: September 2000 (Geneva)	First session: September 2000 (Geneva)	First meeting: September 2000 (Geneva)
Early March 2001, possible special session	Second session: March 2001 (Geneva)	Second meeting: March 2001 (Geneva)
		Third meeting: June 2001 (Kiev)
Eighth session: end September 2001 (Geneva)	Third session: early October 2001 (Geneva)	Fourth meeting: early October 2001 (Geneva)
February 2002 [Bureau meeting]	Fourth session: February 2001 (Kiev)	Fifth meeting: March 2002 (Geneva)
	Fifth session: June 2002 (Kiev) [All documentation and organizational arrangements completed.]	Sixth meeting: June 2002 (Geneva)
		Seventh meeting: August 2002 (Geneva)
Ninth session: 2002	Sixth session: September 2002 (finalization draft ministerial declaration, as needed) (Kiev)	
Translation and reproduction of documents		
Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe": September 2002		

**Annex**

**SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS THAT TOOK PLACE  
PRIOR TO THE AARHUS CONFERENCE**

<b>Committee on Environmental Policy</b>	<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Special session, 17 Jan. '96		
		18 April '96 (Copenhagen)
Third session, 29-30 May '96		
		27 June '96 (Skagen, Denmark)
		30 October '96 (Geneva)
		10-11 March '96 (Aarhus)
Fourth session, 26-28 May '97	First session, 29-30 May '97 (Geneva)	28 May '97 (Geneva)
		16 Sept. '97 (Geneva)
	Second session, 20-22 Oct. '97 (Aarhus)	23 Oct. '97 (Aarhus)
		29 Jan. '98 (Szentendre, Hungary)
		18 March '98 (Geneva)
	Third session, 19-20 March '98 (Geneva)	20 March '98 (Geneva)
		17 April '98 (Geneva)
	Fourth session, 27-28 April '98 (Geneva)	
		14-15 May '98
		25 May '98
	Fifth session, 17-25 June '98 (Aarhus)	16 June '98