



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CEP/AC.11/2002/5
25 April 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials
"Environment for Europe"
(Third session, 3-4 July 2002, Geneva)
(Item 9 of the provisional agenda)

**UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FIFTH
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"**

Topic	Expected Output	Current Status	Date Output Expected
Understanding linkages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third assessment report (EEA) 	Third Pan-European Environmental Report ("Kiev Assessment")	<p>The planning, the list of contents for the report, guidelines for data collection and first analysis of member countries of the European Environment Agency (EEA) were prepared. Three questionnaires on data collection were circulated among non-EEA countries.</p> <p>The Kiev assessment is being developed with the support of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring. Draft findings, summary and available chapters of the Kiev Assessment will be considered by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring at its special session on 28-29 November 2002.</p>	March 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of the environment (UNECE and EEA) 	Short-term: Contribution to the Kiev Assessment. Recommendations to Governments	National focal points for the Kiev Assessment have been established in most UNECE countries. The UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring held its two sessions in September 2001 and February-March 2002. It kept under review the preparations for the Kiev Assessment Report, established a task force on tools and guidelines, assessed the monitoring and information situation in seven newly independent States and adopted recommendations for these countries, considered activities on monitoring hazardous substances, air pollution and inland waters, environmental indicators, waste data and classifications, and took relevant decisions. It is also developing an inventory of ongoing international monitoring activities.	March 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Performance Review (EPR) (UNECE) 	A report on environmental policy in transition	An analysis of the lessons learned by the EPR is underway. Preliminary proposals will be presented to the Working Group of Senior Officials at its third session. The final draft will be available for its fourth session.	Draft by September 2002
Integrating policies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport, environment, and health (UNECE) 	Possible regional convention on transport, environment and health	A Ministerial Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health will be held on 5 July 2002 in Geneva. It will decide on the establishment of a transport, health and environment pan-European programme, which would provide a policy framework for cross-sectoral work on the priorities identified for the region. It should also decide upon the organizational and financial aspects related to the effective implementation of the programme. Finally, it will decide on whether to start negotiations on a new legal instrument, a framework convention on transport, environment and health.	To be decided

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic environmental assessment (UNECE) 	Protocol on strategic environmental assessment	The Parties to the Espoo Convention decided to begin negotiations on a protocol on strategic environmental assessment, and they established an Ad Hoc Working Group for this purpose. Negotiations began on 14-16 May 2001, in Geneva. Participants include Parties to both the Espoo and the Aarhus Conventions.	Early 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term financing under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (UNECE) 	Possible protocol/legal instrument on the long-term financing of core activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	The Executive Body for the Convention at its nineteenth session in December 2001 requested a meeting of Heads of Delegations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, 25-26 April 2002, to discuss text for a possible protocol/legal instrument. The Bureau of the Executive Body will also meet on 25 April. An informal document reporting on the outcome of these meetings will be prepared for the third meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials and for the twentieth session of the Executive Body, in December 2002.	To be decided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint session for Ministers and NGOs on environmental policy integration (ECO-Forum) 	Recommendations on environmental policy integration into sectoral policies, roles of governments and NGOs and their complementarity in achieving this	A proposal for a joint session was presented to the Executive Committee (May 2001 and March 2002) and to the Working Group of Senior Officials (September 2001). The general theme of the session is "environmental policy integration," divided into three sections: (1) let the market work for the environment; (2) examples of sectoral policy integration (e.g. transport, agriculture or energy); and (3) overcoming the institutional weaknesses that prevent integration.	Draft - at the session; Final document – by the September 2003

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Biodiversity and integrated ecosystem management			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (UNEP and Council of Europe) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution on biodiversity Approach to the financing of biodiversity in Europe Framework for cooperation between strategy and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Declaration of the pan-European High-level Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity Declaration on the pan-European ecological network Report on the implementation of the strategy 1998-2002 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Second Intergovernmental Conference “Biodiversity in Europe” (Budapest, 24-28 February 2002) discussed the proposal for biodiversity-related outputs of the Kiev Conference and instructed the Bureau for the strategy to prepare a session on biodiversity. A meeting of the Bureau is scheduled for May-June 2002. The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative is being developed and implemented by the European Centre for Nature Conservation, the Swiss Government, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Council of Europe and Rabobank. The launching workshop was held on 3 December 2001 in Geneva, the next meeting will be held in 2002. A proposal for the framework for cooperation was considered by the Budapest Conference in February 2002, it will be further discussed at the expert-level meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in June 2002. The Conference will take place on 5-7 June 2002 and is expected to endorse a declaration on agriculture and biodiversity to be submitted to the Kiev Conference. The development of the declaration will be considered by the Bureau for the strategy at its meeting in May-June 2002. The report will be prepared by the joint Secretariat for the strategy and submitted for adoption to the seventh meeting of the Council for the strategy prior to the Kiev Conference. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Early 2003 2. Early 2003 3.November 2002 4. June 2002 5. Early 2003 6. Early 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genetically modified organisms (UNECE) 	Guidelines on genetically modified organisms (GMOs)	The Aarhus Convention’s Working Group on GMOs met twice (October 2001, February 2002) and the drafting group met in March 2002 to assist the Chairperson in preparing a new draft. The third and last meeting of the Working Group will take place in June 2002 to finalize the guidelines on GMOs to be adopted at the first Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (14-16 October, Lucca, Italy).	Final text by October 2002

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain initiatives (UNEP and interested countries) 	Regional cooperation and legal instrument for the protection and sustainable management of the Carpathian Mountains	The First Regional Intergovernmental Consultation was held in November 2001 in Ukraine. The wide range of issues of co-operation were defined and agreed. High priority has been given to biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism and sustainable local development. The next Intergovernmental Meeting (Joint with the representatives of Alpine Convention) is scheduled for June 2002 in Bolzano (Italy), followed by intergovernmental meeting at the ministerial meeting at Berchtesgaden (Germany), 27–29 June.	To be decided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain initiatives (UNEP and interested countries) 	Legal Instrument for the Protection of the Mountain Ecosystems in Caucasus	The first meeting was organized by UNEP in Erevan June 26-27 2001. The Meeting adopted a resolution , recognizing the need for a legal instrument for the protection of this unique mountainous ecosystem, and requesting the further assistance of UNEP to develop it. A second meeting was held in Tbilisi on 21-22 March 2002 to discuss the draft legal instrument for the protection of the mountain ecosystems in the Caucasus. Next meeting in Berchtesgaden 27–29 June.	To be decided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain initiatives (UNEP and interested countries) 	Central Asian mountain charter	The draft Central Asian mountain charter, initiated by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, is currently the subject of inter-ministerial consultations among the Central Asian countries. Ministerial consultations with the support of legal experts from UNEP will take place in Berchtesgaden (27-29 June). The signature of the charter is planned as a side event for the Global Mountain Summit, in fall 2002 in Bishkek.	To be decided

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Strengthening partnerships			
Page 2. Contribution of the task Force for the Environmental Action Programme (EAP)	<p>The EAP Task Force will produce a large number of reports from the projects included in its work programme. Depending on how the agenda for Kiev is defined, these could be presented in various ways. The main areas covered include:</p> <p><u>(i) for Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States</u></p> <p>-Assessment of the implementation of the Aarhus Policy Statement on Environmental Management in Enterprises</p> <p>-Trends in environmental finance</p> <p><u>(ii) for the newly independent States</u></p> <p>-Environmental policy reform, including environmental enforcement and compliance</p> <p>-Environmental finance, including “good practices in public environmental expenditure management”</p> <p>-Urban water and sanitation, including a review of progress in this sector in the light of the conclusions of the October 2000 Almaty meeting of Economy, Finance and Environment Ministers on this issue.</p> <p>-The EAP Task Force will contribute to the drawing-up of an environment strategy</p> <p><u>(iii) for Central and Eastern Europe</u></p> <p>-Environmental policy reform, including policy recommendations for strategic environmental assessment and public transport.</p> <p>-Environmental finance, including a report on environmental funds in the EU accession countries.</p>	<p>Work is currently in progress and will be concluded at the final EAP Task Force meeting, which is proposed to take place in February 2003.</p>	May 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subregional partnerships (Ukraine, Georgia, EU) 	Environmental strategy for newly independent States	A high-level meeting of newly independent States (Kiev, February 2002) proposed the drawing-up of a strategy. A report of the Ministerial Meeting of newly independent States on the strategy (April 2002, The Hague, Netherlands) will be submitted to the Working Group of Senior Officials.	To be decided

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance and enforcement (UNECE) 	Guidelines for environmental compliance and enforcement	The Task Force on Compliance and Enforcement will hold its fourth meeting on 16-17 May 2002. The outline and the structure of the document have been agreed. The Task Force continues its work on the individual elements of the draft guidelines.	Feb 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment-related investments in the newly independent States and Central and Eastern Europe Project Preparation Committee 	Report of activities (since June 1998)	Current work focuses on the structure of the Report, which provides results achieved in terms of leveraging environment-related investments in the newly independent States and Central and Eastern Europe. As part of its ongoing activities the Project Preparation Committee will hold a conference in the Russian Federation in May 2002 and possibly for the Black Sea region in early 2003.	Draft by September 2002
Water, environment and security			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water issues in Central Asia (UNECE) 	Possible agreement on objectives and establishment of a regional instrument including sustainable management of transboundary waters	Consultations are under way.	To be decided
Industry's responsibility and involvement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) (UNECE) 	Protocol on PRTR to the Aarhus Convention	The Working Group on PRTR held three sessions during 2001 (February, July, December) and has so far held one in 2002 (March). The drafting group met in Ottawa in January 2002 and, on the basis of this meeting, a new draft of the first part of the protocol was prepared. The drafting group will hold a second meeting in April 2002 to complete its task. The texts prepared with the assistance of the drafting group will serve as the basis for further negotiations in the Working Group. A further three sessions are envisaged in 2002 (June, September, November) with the aim of reaching political agreement on a draft text.	Draft text by the end of November 2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liability and water-related accidents (UNECE) 	Joint protocol on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities within the scope of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	Negotiations within an intergovernmental working group are under way. Two meetings have been held and three more are scheduled for 2002.	February 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy and environment (UNECE) 	Guidelines on reforming energy pricing	The Committees on Sustainable Energy and on Environmental Policy have established a joint task force which is developing, as a first step, guidelines on raising energy prices to economic levels in countries in transition and on reforming energy (consumption) subsidies throughout Europe.	Early 2003

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy-related Aarhus decisions (Working Group for the Energy Charter Treaty Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects) 	Progress report on the implementation of the energy-related decisions of the Aarhus Conference	At its latest meeting in December 2001, the Energy Charter Conference reviewed an interim report on the implementation of the Protocol by all Signatories, designed to provide member States with an overview of progress made in achieving the Protocol's objectives prior to the compilation of the final report to be submitted to the Kiev Conference.	Early 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase out of leaded petrol (Denmark) 	Progress report on the implementation of the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol	A consultant is working on the progress report..	End 2002
Public participation, education and awareness-raising			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention (UNECE) 	Progress report on review of ratifications of the Aarhus Convention	-A consultant will draft the progress report	Text by the end of February 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation (UNECE) 	Guidelines on public participation in international forums	An analysis to be made by a consultant this spring will be reviewed by a task force in the summer. The task force may start to prepare draft elements for the guidelines subject to approval by the Committee on Environmental policy in the autumn.	Draft text by the end of June 2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental education (to be decided) 	A possible synthesis report on environmental education	A background paper on environmental education, prepared by UNECE, has been submitted to the Executive Committee (March 2002). Future steps will be taken, if funds are provided and lead countries found.	To be decided