



FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE
21-23 May 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/92
17 April 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Fifth Ministerial Conference
"Environment for Europe"
Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE

to be held at the International Exhibition Centre, Kiev
beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 May 2003

1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda.
2. State of the environment and environmental performance.
3. Guidelines for strengthening compliance with and implementation of multilateral environment agreements (MEAs).
4. Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.
5. Second joint special session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.
6. Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.
7. Opening of the protocols for signature.
8. Environmental partnerships in the UNECE region.

9. Signing of the framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.
10. Energy efficiency and pricing
11. Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.
12. Education for sustainable development.
13. Special session between Ministers and Environmental NGOs.
14. Development, priorities and perspectives of the “Environment for Europe” process.
15. Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration.
16. Adoption of the Kiev Ministerial Declaration.
17. Closing of the Conference.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda

The President of Ukraine will officially open the Conference. The Meeting will adopt its provisional agenda.

Category I document:

Provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/CEP/92)

Item 2. State of the environment and environmental performance

This session will set the scene for the Conference. The current state of Europe's environment, the key trends and the main areas of achievement and concern will be identified in a presentation by the European Environment Agency (EEA) of its Third Pan-European Assessment Report (Kiev Assessment). Attention will also be drawn to reports on environmental monitoring, information and reporting by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring, which assisted EEA in bringing the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia into the assessment process and prepared sets of relevant recommendations to these countries.

The Ministers in Kiev may wish to welcome the reports submitted and endorse the Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems, and the Guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the state and protection of the environment.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will introduce its report on environmental policy in countries with economies in transition. The report, which reviews the environment situation in countries with economies in transition, recalls that one decade has passed since Ministers at the 1993 Lucerne Conference asked UNECE to undertake Environmental Performance Reviews in countries in transition. During this decade, the usefulness of the Reviews has been articulated by national policy makers and civil society.

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy has proposed that the Ministers at the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" may wish to decide that the Environmental Performance Reviews should continue, taking into account experience from the first ten years.

Following the presentation of these two reports, a high-level panel will discuss their key findings and the effectiveness of current and the need for new policy instruments to address their key issues at various levels.

The panel's discussion will be followed with an open discussion from the floor.

Category I documents:

Environmental policy in transition: lessons learned from ten years of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (ECE/CEP/98) and its executive summary (ECE/CEP/99)

The Third Pan-European Assessment Report and its Executive summary (ECE/CEP/100)

Lessons learned from data collection for Kiev report (ECE/CEP/101)

Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/CEP/109)

Guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the state and protection of the environment (ECE/CEP/113)

Item 3: Guidelines for strengthening compliance with and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

At its seventh session in September 2000, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided on the development of guidelines on environmental compliance and enforcement in association with preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" and mandated an open-ended task force to work on the issue. These Guidelines were prepared pursuant to that decision.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to highlight options for strengthening compliance and implementation of MEAs, recognizing that each agreement is negotiated in a unique way and enjoys its own independent legal status. The Guidelines also identify obstacles and potential solutions which may be relevant in the development of new MEAs in the UNECE region.

The Ministers in Kiev may wish to consider and endorse these Guidelines.

Category I document:

Guidelines for strengthening compliance with and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in the UNECE region (ECE/CEP/107)

Item 4. Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

An extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context will be convened. The Meeting will have before it the draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Convention as finalized and recommended for adoption at the eighth session of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol, held in Geneva on 30 January 2003. It is expected that the Meeting will adopt a ministerial resolution on the occasion of the adoption of the protocol.

Category I documents:

Provisional agenda for the extraordinary meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/2003/1)

Draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment (MP.EIA/2003/1)

Draft resolution on the protocol on strategic environmental assessment (MP.EIA/2003/2)

Item 5. Second joint special session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

The second joint special session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents will be convened. The Parties will have before them the draft protocol on civil liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters. They will be invited to adopt the protocol and consider and take a decision related to it.

Category I documents:

Provisional Agenda for the second joint special session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ECE/MP.WAT/10 -ECE/CP.TEIA/8)

Draft protocol on liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters (MP.WAT/2003/1- CP.TEIA/2003/3)

Draft decision on the protocol on civil liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters (MP.WAT/2003/2-CP.TEIA/2003/4)

Item 6. Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

An extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters will be convened. The Meeting will have before it the draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers. The Meeting is invited to adopt the protocol. The Meeting is also invited to consider and adopt a resolution of the Signatories to be finalized at a preparatory meeting on 20 May 2003, in Kiev.

Category I documents:

Provisional agenda for the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access in Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/3)

Draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers to the Aarhus Convention (MP.PP/2003/1)

Draft resolution of the Signatories to the protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access in Justice in Environmental Matters (MP.PP/2003/1/Add.1)

Category II documents:

Progress report on the status of ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/5)

Report of the first meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/6)

*Guidelines on genetically modified organisms to the Aarhus Convention
(KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/7)*

Item 7. Opening of the protocols for signature

Following their adoption, the protocols on strategic environment assessment, liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters, and pollutant release and transfer registers will be opened for signature at a signing ceremony. In accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and established practice for multilateral treaties for which the United Nations Secretary-General is the Depositary, the protocols may be signed only by heads of State, heads of government, ministers of foreign affairs or representatives duly authorized by one of these three authorities and able to present full signing powers. The UNECE Executive Secretary will preside over the ceremony.

Item 8. Environmental partnerships in the UNECE region

(a) Environmental partnerships in the UNECE Region: environmental strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Strategic framework

This strategy has been developed by a drafting group to contribute to improving environmental conditions and to implementing the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by strengthening the efforts of these countries in environmental protection and by facilitating partnership and cooperation between them and other countries of the UNECE region, including all stakeholders. The strategy identifies key objectives and areas for action.

Ministers may wish to adopt the strategy as a basis for developing actions plans and partnerships for implementation at national, subregional bilateral and multilateral levels.

Category I document:

Environmental partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environment strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Strategic framework (ECE/CEP/105)

Category II documents:

Progress in implementing the EAP Task Force Sub-programme for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, 2000-2003 (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/8)

Progress in the implementation of the Aarhus policy statement on environmental management in enterprises in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/9)

Developing effective packages of environmental policy instruments in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/11)

Guiding principles for reform of environmental enforcement authorities in transition economies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/12)

Urban water sector reform in EECCA countries: progress since the Almaty Ministerial Conference (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/14)

Creating Congruence: highlights and achievements of the REC activities in Central and Eastern Europe under the Environmental Action Programme (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/15)

The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP): model for successful assistance mechanisms (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/32)
Progress in the implementation of the Aarhus policy statement on environmental management in enterprises: Central and South-Eastern Europe (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/38)

(b) Strategic partnership on water for sustainable development – Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, the European Union formally launched a global Water Initiative, which the Council of the European Union has endorsed. As part of the EU Water Initiative, a partnership was established between the EU and Ministers of the States of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) entitled, “Strategic partnership on water for sustainable development.” It is also seen as complementary to the environment strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The EU-EECCA partnership seeks guidance from the Ministers at the Kiev Ministerial Conference on shaping the initiative, especially regarding: (1) how water-related issues and challenges be put higher on the political agenda in the EECCA region; (2) how the Initiative could add value to existing efforts; (3) how the involvement in the initiative by a broad range of stakeholders could be ensured; (4) how the Initiative should be implemented and what the reporting and monitoring mechanism should be.

Category I document:

Statement on the “Strategic partnership on water for sustainable development – Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Component of the European Union Water Initiative” (ECE/CEP/111)

Category II documents:

EU Water Initiative EECCA Component: draft programme (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/33)

EU Water Initiative EECCA Component: draft programme executive summary (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/34)

(c) Environment, water and security in Central Asia: an invitation to partnership

This partnership proposal was developed at the initiative of Central Asian States through meetings in Tajikistan (October 2002) and Kazakhstan (January 2003), with support from both Environment Ministers and Water Ministers and in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Among other actions, it proposes three overriding goals: (1) Providing sustainable functioning of water ecosystems, vitally important for human life; (2) **Sound** use of and access to drinking water; (3) inter-sector partnership and capacity-building.

It calls upon Ministers at the Kiev Conference to support the efforts of the Central Asian countries to achieve these goals, to begin drafting a multilateral partnership agreement for this purpose and to contribute to a new phase of the Aral Sea Basin Programme up to 2010 initiated by the Heads of the Central Asian States.

Category I document:

Invitation to partnership on the implementation of the Central Asian sustainable development initiative (ECE/CEP/111)

(d) Environmental financing for partnerships

Ministers are invited to consider modalities for financing environment activities in the UNECE region, with a particular focus on support to partnerships.

Category II documents:

Financing environmental protection in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/2)

Trends in environmental expenditure and international commitments for the environment in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, 1996-2001 (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/10)

Developing effective packages of environmental policy instruments in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/11)

Good practices in public environmental expenditure management in transition countries (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/13)

Environmental financing in Central and Eastern Europe, 1996-2001 (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/17)

Governance principles for foreign direct investment in hazardous activities (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/18)

PPC report to the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/19)

Debt swap for environment and development in Georgia: pre-feasibility study, institutional options (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/30)

Environmental Financing in Transition Economies (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/37)

Item 9. Signing of the framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

In cooperation with the Alpine Convention, a series of intergovernmental meetings on cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians took place. This has resulted in a draft framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Framework Convention is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the Kiev Ministerial Conference to adopt the draft convention. The convention will be open for signature during the Conference.

Category I document:

Draft framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians (ECE/CEP/104)

Item 10. Energy efficiency and pricing

(a) Energy Efficiency

The Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA), through its Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects Group, has

proposed a cluster of initiatives to reinvigorate the efforts made to improve energy efficiency and support innovative national and international activities.

The Ministers may wish to endorse the Statement of Energy Efficiency.

Category I document:

Draft statement on energy efficiency (ECE/CEP/112)

(b) Guidelines on reforming energy pricing and subsidies

Through the combined work of the UNECE Committee on Environment Policy and the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, guidelines have been proposed on reforming energy pricing in countries in transition and on reforming energy subsidies in all UNECE countries. The primary goal of energy pricing reform to create a well-functioning, competitive market, aimed at increasing economic efficiency and improving the quality of energy services and taking fully into account the economic, environmental and social concerns of governments and society. The guidelines on energy subsidies recall the recommendation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take action to phase out environmentally harmful energy subsidies and the energy-related decisions of the Aarhus Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (1998).

Ministers may wish to endorse the Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies.

Category I documents:

Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies (ECE/CEP/103)

Explanatory notes to the Guidelines (ECE/CEP/103/Add.1)

Category II documents:

Progress report on the implementation of the energy-related decisions of the Aarhus Conference (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/20)

Progress report on the implementation of the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/21)

Executive summary of the Progress report on the implementation of the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/22)

Item 11. Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

The Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy has submitted the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity that expresses concern over the continued degradation of biological and landscape diversity in the pan-European region and its negative impact on sustainable development and the social and cultural integrity of the Earth's population. The Resolution contains key targets: forests and biodiversity; agriculture and biodiversity; the Pan-European Ecological Network; invasive alien species; financing biodiversity; biodiversity monitoring and indicators; and public participation and awareness.

The Ministers may wish to endorse the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.

Category I document:
Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity (ECE/CEP/108)

Category II document:
European Landscape Convention and its Follow-up (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/23)
Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent and its Follow-up (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/24)
Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Considerations into the Transport Sector (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/26)
Statement on the Pan-European Ecological Network (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/27)
European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative-Finance and Biodiversity (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/29)
The European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/35)
Report on the Service for Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/36)

Item 12. Education for sustainable development

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy has submitted a draft statement on education for sustainable development, based on the work of its drafting group.

The draft statement emphasizes the importance of cooperation on education for sustainable development and notes that the World Summit on Sustainable Development stressed the need to integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels of education. Among other initiatives, the draft statement invites Governments in the UNECE region to further develop and finalize the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development; to establish a joint process for education for sustainable development on the regional level and start a dialogue with all relevant international actors; and to convene a joint high-level meeting of Environment Ministries and Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States to adopt the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development.

Ministers are invited to endorse the statement on education for sustainable development.

Category I document:
Draft statement on education for sustainable development (ECE/CEP/102 and Corr. 1)
Basic elements for the UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development (ECE/CEP/102/Add.1)

Item 13. Special session between the Ministers and environmental NGOs

European Eco-Forum will organize a special session between Ministers and environmental non-governmental organizations on environmental policy integration. The objectives of the special session are to encourage an informal and frank discussion on the nature of bottlenecks for integration of environmental requirements into relevant sectoral and horizontal policies; to discuss good examples of environmental policies and their integration into sectors and horizontal policies in the region; and to discuss and clarify roles of governments and environmentalists and their complementarity.

The special session will contain three discussion blocks: (1) letting the market work for the environment; (2) agriculture as an example of sectoral policy integration; and (3) overcoming institutional weaknesses that prevent integration.

Category II document:

Environmental policy integration in practice (KIEV.CONF/2003/INF/3)

Item 14: Development, priorities and perspectives of the “Environment for Europe” process

The UNECE Working Group of Senior Officials, through its drafting group on this topic, has submitted a paper on the future of the “Environment for Europe” process as a basis for discussion by the Ministers.

The paper reviews the cooperative environmental framework established by North America, Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and assesses the needs and opportunities for strengthening this cooperation and better coordinating it. Part I of this paper has been agreed upon within the UNECE Working Group of Senior Officials. Part II was being considered by the Working Group in the context of the draft Ministerial Declaration.

Category I document:

Future of the “Environment for Europe” process (ECE/CEP/95)

Category II documents:

Outline of a possible post-Kiev programme of work for activities in the EECCA region currently supported by the EAP Task Force (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/16)

Political Message from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Ministerial Conference (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/25)

Framework for cooperation between the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the “Environment for Europe” process (KIEV.CONF.2003/INF/31)

Item 15: Consideration of the draft ministerial declaration

The Ministers may wish to consider the draft Kiev ministerial declaration.

Category I document:

Draft ministerial declaration (ECE/CEP/94)

Category II documents:

Statement to Ministers from the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on the preparation of a long-term funding arrangements for core activities (KIEV.CONF/2003/INF/1)

Item 16: Adoption of the Kiev Ministerial Declaration

The Ministers may wish to adopt their declaration of the Kiev Ministerial Conference
“Environment for Europe”

Item 17: Closing of the Conference

The Conference will be closed at 1 p.m. on 23 May 2003.