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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Thirteenth session  
Geneva, 9–11 October 2006  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION**

**Addendum**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007–2008**

The secretariat has prepared this document following consultations with the Committee's Bureau at its meeting in June 2006. The Committee may wish to consider the document for review and establish its programme of work and methods of work.

Each programme activity should reflect the commitment and willingness of the member countries to contribute to its implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources.

The secretariat will brief the Committee on the Trust Fund's expenditures and balance as of October 2006. The Trust Fund supports participation by representatives from eligible countries in the Committee's sessions. Continuous contributions from the member countries are necessary to enable wide participation from across the region in the sessions.

The Committee may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the strategic goals set in the "Future UNECE strategic directions for the environment" (CEP/2003/25);
- (b) Discuss and adopt its programme of work for 2007–2008, based on the present draft;
- (c) Call upon Governments to make contributions to the Trust Fund.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 01 – ENVIRONMENT**

The Committee on Environmental Policy carries out work in accordance with its strategic goals as contained in the “Future UNECE strategic directions for the environment”, which it adopted in 2003 to structure and adapt its programme of work for the next five to ten years.

The specific activities in the draft programme of work for 2007–2008 relate to the following main processes and strategic goals:

1. Preparation of the sixth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Belgrade in 2007.

*Goal 1: Contributing to the “Environment for Europe” process; programme activities 4 and 7.*

2. Environmental performance reviews (EPRs) and environmental monitoring.

*Goal 2: Improving environmental governance; programme activities 1 and 2.*

3. Follow-up and support to the regional environmental conventions and protocols.

*Goal 3: Improving the effectiveness of international legal instruments; programme activity 3.*

4. Regional follow-up to Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

*Goal 5: Contributing to regional implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development; programme activities 5 and 6.*

5. Promotion of cross-sectoral synergies through cooperation with other UNECE principal subsidiary bodies and international organizations.

*Goal 4: Integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies; programme activity 8.*

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS (EPR)**

The EPR programme will continue its second cycle of reviews on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev (2003) and by the Committee. All countries that are members of UNECE but not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are eligible for review. The second review will focus on the particular needs of the countries, with emphasis on integration (sustainable development), implementation and financing. The second round of reviews also aims to support the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

Furthermore, in accordance with the decision of the Committee, the reviewed countries are invited to provide voluntary interim reports on the implementation of the first review’s recommendations within three years of the conclusion of the first review.

### **Work accomplished**

The EPR Expert Group continued to support and to offer advice for the preparation and conduct of the EPRs, to carry out detailed expert reviews prior to the Committee’s peer review and to report back to the Committee.

A second draft EPR of Ukraine has been prepared and will be reviewed by the Committee at its thirteenth session. The Committee will consider adopting the recommendations to this country as contained in the draft report. The Committee will also be presented with the interim reports on progress made in improving the environmental situation and management in Serbia and in Montenegro, in line with the recommendations of their first environmental performance review. The Committee will be informed about the launch events of the EPRs of the Republic of Moldova (July 2006) and Belarus (September 2006).

#### Work to be undertaken

Second reviews of Serbia and Montenegro (2006–2007) are under way. The recommendations contained in the reports will be peer-reviewed during the special session of the Committee in June 2007, with a view to having Serbia's EPR in published form available at the Belgrade Conference.

Kazakhstan and Armenia have expressed interest in being reviewed next. Launches of completed second EPRs will be undertaken at the request of reviewed countries once translations into the national languages are available. In 2007, launches are planned for the EPRs of Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment will continue to strengthen the environmental information and observation capacities in EECCA and to focus on areas emphasized by the ministers in Kiev, in particular the monitoring component of the Environment Strategy for EECCA. It will contribute to the fourth assessment report on the state of the environment for the Belgrade Conference.

#### Work accomplished

At its sixth session (12–14 June 2006), the Working Group reviewed the extended outline of the Belgrade Assessment report and the progress made in its preparation, including coordination with assessment and data collection activities undertaken in other international forums. A contract was concluded with the European Environment Agency (EEA) to facilitate the participation of EECCA countries in the preparation of the report. The Working Group considered and revised the Guidelines on the Application of the Core Set of Environmental Indicators for Countries of EECCA, together with the recommendations on their implementation, to be submitted to the Belgrade Conference. It held an in-depth discussion on measures to improve environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises in EECCA, with participation by key stakeholders, including central and territorial (subnational) environmental authorities, business and industry representatives and environmental NGOs. The Working Group reviewed air quality systems in EECCA countries and made recommendations about adapting these to international requirements (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/2).

Work to be undertaken

Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, the Working Group will:

- (a) *At its meeting in November 2006*, review draft chapters and a summary of the Belgrade assessment report prepared by EEA; and review the EECCA data compendium to be compiled by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the basis of the Working Group's Guidelines with the aim of supplementing the Belgrade report. *At its meeting in early 2007*, discuss promotional activities for the Belgrade assessment report and lessons learned from its preparation;
- (b) Continue strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting capacities in EECCA and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) by:
- (i) Publishing the Guidelines on the application of environmental indicators, once these have been endorsed by the Committee, and transmitting them, together with recommendations on their implementation, to the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) for the preparation of the Belgrade Conference, for adoption by the Conference;
  - (ii) Uploading the indicator descriptions on the website of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment following the example of the EEA Indicator Management System, possibly together with the EECCA data collected by UNEP on the basis of the Guidelines;
  - (iii) Preparing practical guidelines on legal, regulatory, institutional, financial and technical measures to improve enterprise monitoring and reporting. (A workshop will be organized on 4–6 September 2006 in Poland for this purpose.) The draft guidelines will be transmitted to the Belgrade Conference for adoption;
  - (iv) Developing, possibly through the organization of a workshop in early 2007, guidelines on the preparation of indicator-based territorial (subnational) state-of-the-environment reports in EECCA. Once endorsed by the Committee, these reports will be submitted to the Belgrade Conference for adoption;
  - (v) Reviewing additional monitoring networks in EECCA to propose measures for their adaptation to meet international reporting requirements.

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3**

**FOLLOW-UP AND SUPPORT TO THE UNECE ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS  
AND PROTOCOLS**

Since the 1970s, five regional environmental conventions and 12 protocols have been negotiated and adopted within the framework of UNECE. The responsibility for implementation activities lies with the governing bodies.

All the protocols have entered into force except the three protocols adopted at the Kiev Conference: on Strategic Environmental Assessment; on Civil Liability and Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters; and on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

The Committee provides a catalysing forum in which all government representatives, including the governing bodies of the conventions, can share their experiences in promoting and assessing the implementation of these regional environmental instruments and identify means of improving compliance with them. Furthermore, the Committee supports, as appropriate, the implementation of the conventions and their protocols.

#### Work accomplished

The fifth informal meeting between the Bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and of the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions was held on 27 June 2006 at the invitation of the chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy. The meeting's aims were to continue sharing experiences and seeking synergies and areas of cooperation, and to assess and promote the implementation of environmental legal instruments in the region.

In line with the recommendations from the previous meeting, the informal discussions focused in particular on: (a) preparations for the Belgrade Conference; (b) the outcome of and follow-up to the Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development; and (c) the online questionnaire for reporting on the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as a possible example for the other UNECE environmental conventions.

#### Work to be undertaken

It is envisaged that informal meetings between the Bureaux of the Committee and the governing bodies of the conventions will continue to be held annually. The next informal meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2007, and it was agreed that they would discuss UNECE Conventions' contribution to the Belgrade Conference.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4**

#### **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECCA)**

The Environment Strategy for Countries of EECCA aims to strengthen the environmental protection efforts of the EECCA countries and to facilitate partnerships and cooperation between these and other countries, and with other stakeholders in the UNECE region.

The ministers in Kiev invited the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force) to lead efforts to facilitate and support the implementation of the Strategy. The Task Force promotes the achievement of specific objectives of the Strategy with several other Facilitating Organizations, including

UNECE, and Regional Environmental Centres (RECs). The EAP Task Force, in cooperation with relevant international bodies, and on the basis of information provided by the EECCA countries, was requested to keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed about progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

#### Work accomplished

A conference of environment ministers from the EECCA countries and their Partners was held in Tbilisi on 20–21 October 2004 to discuss the action programmes and partnerships elaborated since the Kiev Conference to implement the EECCA Environment Strategy, and to provide further impetus for their development and implementation.

A report establishing a baseline for assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy was prepared in late 2004.

Three subregional workshops were held in May/June 2005 in Moscow, Almaty and Tbilisi to discuss challenges faced by EECCA countries in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy.

The EAP Task Force developed an EECCA Partnerships Database and a document which enumerates the activities carried out by the different Facilitating Organizations, including UNECE, to support each objective of the Strategy.

A region-wide meeting was organized in May 2006 to discuss the structure of the 2007 EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report (EECCA Report). In particular, examples of progress to be included in the report were discussed, as well as ways of preparing the report and the impact of the EECCA Strategy in the EECCA countries. For the preparation of the report, the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat has set up a cooperation framework for assessing progress in the implementation of the Strategy involving EECCA environment ministries, Facilitating Organizations, EEA and NGOs.

#### Work to be undertaken

UNECE serves as a Facilitating Organization for several objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The implementation of the EECCA Strategy is promoted as part of the UNECE technical assistance activities within the Environmental Performance Review programme, environmental monitoring activities, the work under the environmental conventions, the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

Relevant ongoing and planned activities in the subregion include projects to support development of transboundary water cooperation under the work programme of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) as well as the Internationally Supported Assistance Programme for EECCA (and SEE) countries to enhance their efforts in implementing the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention).

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 5**

### ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SECURITY INITIATIVE IN CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asian countries launched the Initiative on Environment, Water and Security at the Kiev Conference. The ministers in Kiev recommended starting preparations for a partnership agreement on transboundary water problems, environment and security in Central Asia as part of the follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and as a contribution to the EU Water Initiative and other water initiatives in the region. The Committee will provide a forum for exchanging information and discussing progress in the implementation of related activities.

#### **Work accomplished**

Since the Kiev Conference, the countries in the region and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) have sought political support for the Initiative through, for instance, UNCSD, UNESCAP and other UN organizations and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union on cooperation with the EU Water Initiative.

CAREC and the Central Asian countries have carried out activities on environmental education, public participation and transboundary water. The European Union and CAREC held a high-level meeting in April 2006 to strengthen the Initiative's implementation.

#### **Work to be undertaken**

In line with the Kiev Ministerial Declaration, the region's countries and the relevant organizations may consider developing a partnership agreement for implementing the Initiative. The agreement could be then submitted for endorsement to the Belgrade Conference.

UNECE will promote the implementation of the Initiative notably through: (a) the Environment and Security Initiative; (b) activities under the Water Convention; and (c) the assistance programmes to EECCA, such as the one carried out by the Industrial Accidents Convention, organizing capacity-building activities to facilitate the application of the Convention.

The UNECE secretariat will continue to support the Initiative, in particular by providing technical assistance, in collaboration with other partner organizations concerning water-related and other issues.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6**

### ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a joint initiative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and UNECE that builds on the combined strengths and field presence of the lead organizations to perform three key functions: assessment and monitoring of environment and security linkages; capacity-building and institutional development; and integration of environmental and security concerns and priorities into international and national policymaking.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening the implementation of UNECE regional environmental conventions.

#### Work accomplished

To date, assessments have been made for three regions: SEE, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus. In addition, assessments of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have been initiated. After the assessments, programmes of work were established and a number of projects initiated (see [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org)).

#### Work to be undertaken

The assessments of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will be finalized. Based on these assessments, a programme of work will be established.

The implementation of the work programmes for these three subregions will be followed up on, and additional programmes will be developed if necessary.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 7**

#### COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Ministers in Kiev requested the Committee to develop, in consultation with major stakeholders, a communication strategy to raise awareness of environmental problems in the UNECE region and to increase the visibility of the “Environment for Europe” process as a policy framework for environment-related initiatives in the region.

#### Work accomplished

At its twelfth session, the Committee, taking note of the revised draft “Environment for Europe” communication strategy prepared by the secretariat in consultation with stakeholders and the Committee’s Bureau, requested the WGSO for the Belgrade Conference to revise the strategy for further consideration after the contents of the Conference agenda had been defined.

#### Work to be undertaken

The WGSO may consider the proposal to develop a communication strategy with the assistance of a drafting group once the topics for the Conference agenda are more clearly defined. In such a strategy, it may include a communication plan identifying concrete steps to facilitate the strategy’s implementation for adoption by the WGSO or its Executive Committee in 2006.

The secretariat will continue to post documents for the Committee’s sessions which are related to the “Environment for Europe” process on the UNECE website and will update its media contact points.



## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 8**

### INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SECTORAL POLICIES

Integrating environmental concerns into the activities of other sectors, whether economic or social, is one of the key challenges for the effective implementation of environmentally sound sustainable development principles. Since the Rio Conference, actions and programmes in the UNECE region have moved towards that goal, but significant efforts are still needed through a wide range of policy, legal, institutional and financial measures and incentives.

The Committee on Environmental Policy has established cross-sectoral linkages, activities and cooperation with other UNECE committees (e.g. Housing and Land Management and Transport) and the conventions' governing bodies, as well as with other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO). UNECE environmental cross-sectoral programmes should be further encouraged to ensure effective support for national and regional initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in order to promote social and economic development.

#### 8.1 EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the Kiev Conference, ministers agreed on the preparation of a UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and invited UNECE to work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe on a regional strategy for ESD.

##### Work accomplished

Following the decision of the Committee at its eleventh session, the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (Vilnius, 17–18 March 2005) adopted the UNECE Strategy for ESD as a practical instrument for promoting sustainable development through education. The meeting also adopted the Vilnius Framework for Implementation, under which a Steering Committee on ESD and an Expert Group on Indicators for ESD were set up to facilitate the coordination and review of the Strategy's implementation. At its first meeting (on 13–14 December 2005), the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD amended and adopted its workplan, which outlines activities to support implementation and includes a reporting mechanism. The Committee also considered a first draft of a set of indicators to measure the extent and effectiveness of implementation of the Strategy.

##### Work to be undertaken

The Steering Committee on ESD will hold its second meeting on 4–5 December 2006 to review the implementation of its programme of work. The Committee will consider the proposal for a high-level segment on ESD for the Belgrade Conference to discuss the implementation of ESD, with a focus on achievements, challenges and future steps in terms of reaching the six objectives of the UNECE Strategy. The final outcome of the work by the Expert Group on Indicators for ESD will be submitted to the Committee for endorsement. The Committee will also consider the outline of the report on progress in implementation of the Strategy, which will be submitted to the Conference.

## 8.2 TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was established in 2002 under the joint auspices of UNECE (the Environment and Transport Divisions) and WHO/EURO. THE PEP aims at promoting policy integration and sustainable transport development, notably in urban areas, through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. It focuses on and brings particular benefits to countries in EECCA and SEE.

### Work accomplished

At its fourth session (10–11 April 2006), the Steering Committee of THE PEP assessed the progress made in the implementation of its work programme and provided guidance on further implementation. It welcomed the launching of the Clearing House on Transport, Environment and Health. It also examined the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, to be held in 2008.

The Steering Committee recommended that countries increasingly opt for an integrated approach to transport policymaking and focus on the consumption and mobility patterns of citizens. The Committee accordingly agreed that the main objectives of the High-level Meeting should be to:

- (a) Strengthen Member States' commitment to the integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level, with a special focus on the challenges faced by EECCA and SEE countries;
- (b) Reinforce the role of THE PEP as the platform for promoting such policy integration and secure the necessary resources and support.

### Work to be undertaken

The Bureau of the Steering Committee of THE PEP, extended to other interested delegations, will start preparations of the third High-Level Meeting according to a timetable it has tentatively adopted. The Bureau appointed a number of delegations as "lead countries" for coordinating the development of proposals corresponding to the main objectives of the third High-level Meeting.

The activities in the work programme of THE PEP will continue to be carried out, including the organization of a workshop in Tbilisi on sustainable urban transport and land-use planning, tentatively scheduled for October 2006.

The Committee on Environmental Policy is invited to further encourage, support and coordinate efforts in the transport, environment and health sectors to implement THE PEP, and in particular to prepare for the third High-level Meeting.

## 8.3 ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

WHO/EURO Ministerial Conferences have been organized since 1989 and bring together ministers of health and environment and other stakeholders to strive for consensus and make political commitments to promoting a safe and healthy environment.

### Work accomplished

At its twelfth session, the Committee was informed about the implementation of the commitments made at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 23–25 June 2004) as contained in the Budapest Conference Declaration and in the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE). CEHAPE provides a framework for developing member States' plans and policies on health and the environment. The third meeting of the CEHAPE Task Force took place in Dublin in March 2006.

Ministers entrusted the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) with following up on their decisions and serving as a steering committee for the preparation of the next conference. EEHC held three meetings in 2005 and one in May 2006, which focused on CEHAPE Priority Goal 2 "Preventing and reducing the health consequences from accidents and injuries and pursuing a decrease in morbidity from lack of adequate physical activity".

### Work to be undertaken

EEHC will continue its activities in accordance with its workplan and will report annually on progress to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The next meeting of EEHC will be held on 27–28 November 2006 at the premises of the REC in Szentendre (Hungary), with a focus on preventing and reducing the health consequences of accidents and injuries.

In line with the request from ministers in Budapest, WHO will convene an intergovernmental meeting to carry out a midterm review of the process. This meeting will take place in Vienna on 13–15 June 2007. The fifth Ministerial Conference will be held in Italy in 2009.

EEHC will work in close cooperation with the "Environment for Europe" WGSO.