



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CEP/AC.11/2000/1  
10 July 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
Beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, 29 September 2000

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of decisions taken at the Fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Aarhus, Denmark, that relate to the organization of the Fifth Ministerial Conference.
3. Host country preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference.
4. Organization of the Executive Committee of the Working Group of Senior Officials.
5. Work-plan for the Working Group and its Executive Committee.
6. Other business.

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its sixth session, 20-24 September 1999, established the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in Kiev, Ukraine, in late September 2002. The Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials is open to participation of all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Other member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also be invited to participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe (paras. 11, 12 and 13).

The Committee also approved the mandate for the Working Group, and it requested the ECE secretariat to provide the necessary secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group in accordance with ECE rules and practices.

It was decided that the Working Group would hold its first meeting in 2000, in conjunction with the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Working Group will be chaired by a representative of Ukraine as host country for the 2002 Conference.

### Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

### Item 2: Review of decisions taken at the Fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Aarhus, Denmark, that relate to the organization of the Fifth Ministerial Conference

The Working Group may wish to review decisions taken at the Fourth Ministerial Conference whose follow-up might need to be reflected on the agenda for the Fifth Ministerial Conference. A background paper has been prepared by the secretariat on this issue.

In this context, the Working Group will be informed of the activities of the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe, the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, the European Environment Agency, and other international organizations. The Chairs of the respective intergovernmental bodies will be invited to submit progress reports.

In preparing the Fifth Ministerial Conference, the Working Group may also wish to consider possible synergies between preparations for “Rio+10” and the Kiev Conference.

Item 3: Host country preparations for the Ministerial Conference

The host country of the Conference, Ukraine, may wish to share its vision for the Conference with the Working Group and provide information on organizational issues.

Item 4: Organization of the Executive Committee of the Working Group of Senior Officials

Pursuant to its terms of reference, the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials will establish its Executive Committee at its first session. The Executive Committee will serve as the Bureau of the Working Group. It will be composed of two senior officials from central and eastern Europe, two from newly independent States and four from western Europe.

The Chair of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe, the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), and the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy will also be invited as observers.

The Executive Committee will be chaired by the host country.

Item 5: Work-plan for the Working Group and its Executive Committee

The Working Group will draw up its work-plan and formulate its methods of work in view of its discussion on the above agenda items and within the context of ECE rules and procedures.

A draft schedule of meetings of both the Working Group and its Executive Committee has been submitted as a basis for discussion.

Item 6: Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.