



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ENERGY/2000/10  
22 August 2000

Original : ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Tenth Session, 31 October-2 November 2000

Item 11(a) of the provisional agenda

**ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE  
COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON  
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION RELEVANT TO THE  
WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY <sup>1</sup>**

Note by the secretariat

1. The present note contains information on those activities in the programme of work of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission which are of relevance to the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Information is based on reports issued since the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

**A. COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

Documentation: ECE/HPB/110, report of the fifty-ninth session.

---

<sup>1</sup> All programme activity designations on this document refer to those cited on the latest reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies mentioned.

#### 10.1.1: Country profiles on the housing sector

2. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors. The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania have been published.

#### 10.1.2: Improvement of urban environmental performance

3. Case studies on changing consumption patterns in five cities were carried out, leading in a comprehensive way to the strategies which are necessary to achieve sustainable consumption and production and to encourage community initiatives towards sustainable use of energy, water, raw materials and transport thus integrating sustainability into land-use planning. A further workshop will address practical experience in the environmentally sound management of urban transport integrated with sustainable land-using planning. Based on the workshop results, guidelines for governments will be prepared for submission to a joint meeting of the Bureaux both Committees, and then, if agreed, to the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

#### 10.1.4: Strategies for the implementation of urban renewal and housing modernization policies

4. Under this element the Committee prepared case studies on Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Ljubljana, focusing on ways in which renewal and modernization policies are implemented. An evaluation of the four case studies was also prepared. Emphasis is put on developing strategies to encourage energy-saving measures.

#### 10.1.6: Major trends characterizing human settlements development

5. Under this element the Committee analysed the impact of the globalization of economy on cities and its compatibility with sustainable development policies.

### **B. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

#### 3.1: Energy and the environment

6. A workshop on enhancing the environment by reforming energy prices was organized jointly with OECD in cooperation with the Committee on Sustainable Energy and held in Pruhonice, Czech Republic on 14-16 June 2000 (CEP/2000/6). The workshop resulted in a series of recommendations to ECE Governments. As a follow-up, the Government of Czech Republic proposed that a Task Force should be established partly by the Committees on Environmental Policy and Sustainable Energy to develop guidelines on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable development.

### 3.4: Integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies

7. The Committee, at its seventh session, is expected to decide on the proposal by its Bureau regarding practical implementation of a programme to improve the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies including energy policy.

### 01.2: Environmental performance reviews

8. Issues of the interface between environment and energy will form part of reviews on environmental performance in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and relevant international commitments.

## **C. EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

### 1.2: Compliance review

9. The Convention's Implementation Committee will evaluate experience with a questionnaire for reporting strategies and policies. An in-depth review of compliance by Parties with the 1985 Sulphur Protocol and the 1988 NO<sub>x</sub> Protocol will be carried out.

### 1.3: Reviews of strategies and policies

10. A draft review will be prepared based on the information provided by Parties to the Questionnaire (EB.AIR/1999/3, Annex II, as amended) which was circulated to Parties in January 2000. The Questionnaire was revised to reflect more directly obligations of the Parties under the Convention and its Protocols. Reporting on current and project emission data will be detailed.

## **D. INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/133 and Add.1, report of the sixty-second session.

### Programme element 02.4: Construction of vehicles

11. Road vehicles and their parts are type approved to ECE Regulations, which are annexed to the so-called 1958 Agreement. Regulation No. 101 is directly concerned with the conservation of energy, and it specifies uniform provisions for the measurement of fuel consumption of passenger cars and light-duty vehicles (M1 and N1 categories), including also measurement of energy consumption and range of electric vehicles.

12. To allow for wider use of the gaseous fuels, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG), Regulation No. 83, controlling emissions of gaseous pollutants of passenger cars and light-duty vehicles, was extended to vehicles fuelled with LPG and CNG. The same process is under way for Regulation No. 49, controlling emissions of gaseous pollutants from heavy-duty engines/vehicles. In addition, the safety requirements for vehicles fuelled with LPG have been upgraded (Regulation No. 67), and a new Regulation concerning

the safety requirements for CNG fuelled vehicles is in legal processing and should enter into force on 28 December 2000. The proposal for a new draft Regulation, concerning retrofitting of LPG and CNG equipment to vehicles which were originally designed for petrol or diesel fuelling has been completed and it is on the agenda of the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement.

#### 02.8: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

##### Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment

13. The ECE has been identified as lead body to support the implementation of a number of specific elements of the Programme of Joint Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12 to 14 November 1997) (ECE/RCTC/CONF./3/FINAL). The ECE is also mandated to monitor the implementation by Governments and international organizations of other elements of the Programme of Joint Action.

14. In particular, chapter II of the Programme of Joint Action, entitled "Promoting less polluting vehicles and fuels", provides, at the international level, for measures to promote more energy efficient vehicles (items (d) and (f)) and to introduce clean fuels (items (h) and (n)). At the national level, measures have been identified to phase out leaded fuels (item (d)), to reduce energy consumption in the transport sector (items (e) and (f)) and to enhance and ensure fuel quality (items (I) and (j)).

15. The mid-term review of the follow-up of the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment is being prepared for the year 2002 and should be carried out by a joint meeting at the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

#### **E. COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

##### **(a) WORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

Documentation: TRADE/WP.6/1999/18, Report of the ninth session;

##### Regular guidance for international standardization through identification of sectors that are of interest to member Governments

16. A fourth revised version of the ECE Standardization List was adopted by the Working Party at its sixth session and published in 1996. Its fifth revision including amendments proposed by member government will be prepared for adoption in 2000.

##### **(b) AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

Documentation: TRADE/CHEM/GE.1/2000/7, Report of the third session;

##### Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED) and other Environmental and Resource Issues in the Chemical Industry

17. Under this programme activity are several elements dealing with more efficient use of raw materials and lower energy use in the chemical industry, including a Seminar on Methods of Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils which was held in Paris, April 1999. A follow-up seminar on this subject will take place on 13-15 March 2001. The continuing CHEMLEX CD-ROM database on chemical legislation provides access to laws in 25 ECE member States on the chemical industry, including its energy-related topics; a second editing of CD-Rom is in the planning stage. The second edition of the "Compendium on Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies" has been issued.

(c) AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STEEL

Documentation: TRADE/STEEL/GE.1/1999/6 report of the second session

Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market: Annual Review

18. The Group of Experts examines at its annual sessions long-term, medium-term and short-term trends and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market. It examines, in particular, major trends in the production, consumption and trade in steel and steel making raw materials, trends in investment and prices, and any other key problems which arise during the year.

Harmonization of regulations

19. Harmonization of regulations on environmental protection is a major concern of the steel industries in the countries in transition. It is necessary to review the current regulations and start with the most urgent issues. The Group of Experts will consider projects that could lead to the exchange of information between steel producers and government representatives and towards the harmonization of regulations in the field of the environment. A Seminar on "Economic Aspects of Clean Technologies, Energy and Waste Management in the Steel Industry" took place in Linz, Austria from 22 to 24 April 1998.

**F. TIMBER COMMITTEE**

Documentation ECE/TIM/91, report of the fifty-sixth session

09.1.6: outlook for the supply and demand for timber and non-wood goods and services

20. Energy supply is a major end-use for wood, and is regularly monitored in all aspects of the Timber Committee's work: statistics are published on an annual basis. A team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions reviewed the interactions of energy and forest sector policies at a workshop in Istanbul and this was the special topic at the Committee's session in September 1998. The proceedings of the workshop will be issued shortly as a Geneva Forest and Timber Discussion Paper. One central theme of the next outlook study, for which preparation is starting may be the future role of energy as a market for wood, and the likely influence of changes in energy policy on the forest sector.