



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

JMTE/2001/5
18 July 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE JOINT MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting held its fourth session on 6 June 2001.
2. The session was attended by members of the Bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Inland Transport Committee, by lead actors and national focal points and by observers representing the following countries and organizations: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia, European Community, Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD), World Health Organization (WHO), Regional Environmental Center (REC), International Road Transport Union (IRU) and International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE).
3. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Patrice Robineau, Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary, by Mr. José Capel-Ferrer, Director of the Transport Division and by Mr. Kaj Bärlund, Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division. The main focus of the three introductory speeches was on the outcome the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health meeting held on 4 May 2001 in Geneva.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The secretariat indicated correct symbols for two documents, inaccurately referred to under the item 6 of the provisional agenda, as follows: item 6 (a) Priority setting for the international activities (JMTE/2001/3); item 6 (b) Draft work plan for the implementation of the international activities in POJA for the period July 2001 to June 2002 (JMTE/2001/4). With these amendments the Joint Meeting adopted its agenda (JMTE/2001/1).

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The Joint Meeting elected as Co-chairpersons Ms. Virginia Tanase (Romania), Chairperson of the Inland Transport Committee, and Ms. Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland) on behalf of Mr. Hugo von Meienfeldt, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy.

IV. REPORT ON THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (GENEVA, 4 MAY 2001)

6. The Chairperson of the morning session, Ms. Vermont, gave the Joint Meeting a brief account on the background and outcome of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 4 May 2001) jointly organized by the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats to implement the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health, adopted at the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in June 1999.

7. The Joint Meeting was informed in particular of the mandate received from the High-level Meeting to carry out further preparatory work to allow a Second High-level Meeting, to be convened in summer 2002, to decide on whether to start negotiations of a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health as well as to finalize the rationalization of the London and Vienna follow-up processes.

8. The secretariat presented the background documents for the item. They included the Synthesis report "Overview of Instruments Relevant to Transport, Environment and Health and Recommendations for further Steps" (ECE/AC.21/2001/1-EUR/00/50/5026094/1) and the Conference Room Paper on "Rationalization of Work at the International Level in the Fields of Transport, Environment and Health" of 25 April 2001, both of which were prepared by the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats to provide a basis for decisions at a High-level Meeting. The

decisions and recommendations adopted at the High-level Meeting as well as a Conference Room Paper of 29 May 2001 “Results of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health” prepared jointly by UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats to facilitate the implementation of its decisions were also submitted.

9. The Joint Meeting discussed the concrete follow-up proposals to the decisions of the High-level Meeting as contained in the Conference Room Paper of 29 May 2001, focusing in particular on the secretariat proposal for terms of reference of a tripartite task force assigned to carry out the follow-up work.

10. After lengthy deliberations, the Joint Meeting:

(a) decided to establish a Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health, at least until the second High-level Meeting, by extending the existing Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment to include health experts;

(b) approved Terms of Reference of the Joint UNECE – WHO Expert Group, mandating it mainly to:

- carry out preparatory work for facilitating the rationalization of the existing international institutional mechanisms established under the Vienna and London follow-up processes as laid out in the Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001;

- and, in accordance with the mandate of the High-level Meeting, to act as a Task Force carry out further preparatory work to facilitate the decision on whether to start negotiations on a Framework convention to be taken at the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health;

(c) specified that the second High-level meeting should be convened at the Ministerial level;

(d) agreed that the second High-level meeting should also endorse the Vienna mid-term review.

11. The Terms of Reference approved by the Joint Meeting were also submitted for approval to the fourth meeting of the London Charter Steering Group, (7 June 2001).

12. Owing to the few amendments proposed by the Charter Steering Group, the co-chairs of the Joint Meeting, the chair of the Charter Steering group together with the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats were entrusted to prepare a consolidated version of the Terms of Reference which was circulated for final approval to the members of the governing bodies of the two processes.

13. The final version of the Terms of Reference of the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment and the timetable for work to be undertaken, as approved by the two bodies on 2 July 2001, is enclosed to this report.

V. REPORT ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT (GENEVA, 26-27 FEBRUARY 2001)

14. The secretariat presented the report of the first session of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment held in Geneva on 26-27 February 2001 (JMTE/AC.1/2001/2).

15. The Joint Meeting was informed that the Expert Group on Transport and the Environment decided at its first session to elect an extended Bureau to assure continuous assistance to the secretariat in the preparation of the following sessions. The proposed members of the extended Bureau, Mr. Vadim Donchenko from the Russian Ministry of Transport, Mr. Bertjan Griffioen from the Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Jan Janiga from Slovakian Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Risto Saari from Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, Mr. Robert Thaler from Austrian Federal Ministry for the Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management confirmed their commitment for pursuing this task under the newly established UNECE – WHO Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health.

16. The Joint Meeting:

(a) endorsed the report of the first session of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment. The delegate from Russian Federation informed the Meeting of his intention to send comments to the secretariat relating to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report, to be included into the minutes of the session;

(b) supported the establishment of an extended Bureau for assisting the newly established UNECE-WHO expert group and took note of its members representing transport and environment sectors;

(c) strongly recommended that representatives from the health sector shall also be nominated in order to assure equal representation of the three sectoral ministries within the Bureau.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF JOINT ACTION ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT (POJA) at the national level (JMTE/2001/2, including Annex 1)

17. The Joint Meeting took note of document JMTE/2001/2 prepared by the secretariat, summarizing reports of the national focal points on the ongoing and projected activities to implement POJA at the national level as well as of the Annex No. 1 to document JMTE/2001/2, illustrating the overall level of implementation of the national activities within POJA.

VII. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE PROGRAMME OF JOINT ACTION

(a) Priority setting for international activities (JMTE/2001/3, JMTE/AC.1/2001/2)

18. The Joint Meeting took note of secretariat document "Priority setting for the international activities of the Programme of Joint Action" (JMTE/2001/3), updating and completing document JMTE/2000/4 on the basis of the information received from the national focal points and in accordance with the recommendations of the ad hoc expert group on transport and the environment (JMTE/AC.1/2001/2).

19. Due to the limited time available for discussion, delegates were encouraged to provide any comments they might have on the documents in writing, to be included in the report of the meeting.

20. The representative from Regional Environment Center provided the secretariat with the following amendments and further information on "Related activities in other international/regional fora" as contained in the document JMTE/2001/3, table 1: "High priority elements (2001)": Ia: delete reference to the REC; Ic: add after REC, "Sofia Initiative on Economic Instruments"; Ik: add after REC, "Public transport promotion project"; IId: add after REC "Business and Environment programme, Sofia Initiative on Economic Instruments"; IIg: add after REC "Sofia Initiative on Local Air Quality/ phase out of leaded petrol"; IIIh: add after REC "Sofia Initiative on EIA/SEA"; Va: add after REC "Public transport promotion project; Sofia EIA/SEA Initiative"; Ve: add the REC in the related activities column and add "Public transport promotion project". With respect to the element IIIc relating to establishment of an attractive network of all public transport means, REC volunteered as a lead actor for the implementation of the activity.

The related activities REC is carrying out include: "Public transport promotion project, sustainable mobility scheme".

(b) **Draft work plan for the implementation of the international activities in POJA for the period July 2001 to June 2002 (JMTE/2001/4)**

21. A number of lead actors reported on their activities:

22. Peter Wiederkehr, OECD Environment Directorate, informed the Meeting that: "The Environmental Strategy for the first decade of the 21st century" (available at <http://www.oecd.org/env/>) was adopted by the OECD Environmental Ministerial meeting on 16 and 17 May 2001. The strategy contains a specific section on transport. It is intended to provide clear and concrete directions for environmentally sustainable policies in OECD Member countries and will guide OECD's future work in the field of environment; The strategy is based on OECD's long-term environmental outlook to 2020 that addressed the many environmental issues in the various economic sectors including transport (summaries and highlights are available on the web at <http://www.oecd.org/env/>).

23. At the OECD Meeting, Ministers also endorsed the Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Transport, which have been developed by OECD's Working Group on Transport, and have been endorsed at the Conference on EST in October 2000 in Vienna. The EST Guidelines were elaborated to assist Governments at all levels in the development and implementation of strategies towards environmentally sustainable development. Finally, Ministers called upon OECD to assist in further developing of implementation strategies, also in non-Member countries, provide further analysis of the driving forces of transport growth and develop approaches on how to overcome barriers to EST, and further disseminate the EST concept and best practices. A detailed brochure on the guidelines with explanatory notes on each of the ten items is available on the web and from the OECD Secretariat (<http://www.oecd.org/env/ccst/est>).

24. The representative of Finland reported on the implementation of POJA element III h, related to the integration of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) in national and international transport planning processes: The Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Environment Institute organized jointly a workshop entitled "Does SEA/ Integrated Assessment affect decision making in transport planning?" in Espoo, on 14 and 15 May 2001. The workshop brought together specialists dealing with practical and theoretical issues of SEA in the transport sector at international, regional and local levels to discuss the effectiveness of SEA/ Integrated Assessment in decision making in the field of transport planning and key changes that have taken place in

transport planning and their connection to SEA/Integrated Assessment. The aim of the workshop was further to elucidate the corner stones of SEA/Integrated Assessment to be able to develop it to a more efficient tool in transport planning and to examine decision making in transport planning and the link to SEA/Integrated Assessment. The draft report of the workshop and the list of participants are available at <http://www.vyh.fi/eng/current/events/transpor/workshop.htm>.

25. The Austrian representative informed the Meeting on the International Conference on Sensitive Areas: “Sensitive Areas – a Key Challenge for Environment and Transport in Europe” (14-15 March 2001, Eisenstadt, Austria). The proceedings of the Conference will be printed in the course of the summer and will be available at the web site of the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management www.lebensministerium.at. The pilot study “Transport in Sensitive areas on example of the Lake Neusiedl”, presented at the Conference, provides a model on how to solve transport problems in sensitive areas. A bilateral joint pilot project between Austria and Hungary on “Sustainable Transport in the Sensitive Areas: Region Neusiedler See/Fertö tó which was agreed upon is starting in July. On 16 March, back to back to the Conference, a workshop for transport and environment experts of UNECE member countries was held for discussing the further implementation of the Vienna Declaration on the basis of the informal Expert Paper, “Conclusions and Leitmotivs on Sustainable Transport Management in Sensitive Areas”. For the further development of these conclusions, it was agreed to establish a Task Force of interested UNECE Member Countries in the field of Transport in Sensitive Areas (Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uzbekistan as well as UN/ECE, OECD and European Commission). The Task Force would also develop possible pilot projects on bilateral and transnational level.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT UNECE - WHO AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

1. The Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment and the London Charter Steering Group decided, in order to facilitate the rationalization of the existing international institutional mechanisms established under the Vienna and London follow-up processes and the prioritisation of the related work as laid out in the Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001, to establish a Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health by extending the existing Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment to include health experts, with the aim of finalizing the recommendations at the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health in 2002.
2. The terms of reference for the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health were endorsed by the Joint Meeting at its fourth session (6 June 2001) and submitted for approval to the fourth meeting of the Charter Steering Group (7 June 2001), which proposed a few amendments. The co-chairs of the Joint Meeting, the chair of the Steering group together with the UNECE and WHO secretariats were entrusted to prepare this consolidated version of the terms of reference to be circulated for comments (within 10 working days) to the members of the JMTE and of the London Charter Steering Group.

Mandate of the Joint UNECE - WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health

3. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health shall undertake the following activities:
 - (a) Preparation of detailed proposals for rationalizing and streamlining the existing institutional mechanisms at the international level in transport, environment and health on the basis of the proposals contained in the joint secretariat Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001. These proposals shall be developed with the full involvement of the transport, environment and health sectors including an assessment of the implications for a better achievement of the objectives of the Vienna declaration and the London Charter.

(b) Establishment of key issues, priority policy directions and corresponding activities to be undertaken or further developed within the period 2002-2007, taking into account the key priorities to be identified under the Programme of Joint Action and the London Charter follow-up work as well as of the key challenge areas contained in the Synthesis Report. This may also include new emerging issues as well as the consideration of other related processes. This work should be based on the mid-term review of the POJA and on the review of the London Charter implementation.

(c) In accordance with paragraph 5 of the “Decisions and recommendations adopted by the High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 4 May 2001)”, the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad hoc expert group on transport, environment and health will also be acting as a Task Force whose mandate shall be to:

(i) Carry out further preparatory work to facilitate a decision on whether to start negotiations on a framework convention, including the specific task of identifying the possible elements of such an instrument for further decisions to be taken at the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health to be convened at the Ministerial level in June/July 2002.

(ii) In addition, in carrying out the above work, consideration should be given to the existing legal instruments as well as to other legal aspects relating to a possible framework convention.

II. Composition and structure of the Joint UN/ECE - WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health

4. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health is open for representatives of UNECE and WHO/Euro member countries for the three ministries concerned. National focal points for transport and the environment, national contact points for health, lead actors and other experts of POJA and London Charter and representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations will be invited to participate as observers as to be decided.

5. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health is established at least until the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (June/July 2002).

6. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health will meet at least twice before the second High-level Meeting. As much as possible, the meetings of the expert group should be held back-to-back to other relevant meetings.
7. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health will be serviced jointly by the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats with contributions from UNEP Regional Office for Europe.
8. The Joint UNECE – WHO Ad hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health will be supported by a Bureau with an equal representation of the three ministries as well as of the Eastern and Western sub-regions of Europe.
9. The meetings of the joint ad hoc expert group will be convened by the secretariats and will be chaired by representatives of the transport, environment and health ministries.

III. Timetable for work undertaken by the Joint UN/ECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health

- June 2001:** Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health by the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (6 June 2001) and by the London Charter Steering Group (7 June 2001).
- September 2001:** UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats submit a progress report on the work carried out to the regional preparatory meeting for Rio +10 summit (Johannesburg, September 2002).
- November 2001:** First meeting of the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health (26 and 27 November 2001, to be confirmed).
- February 2002:** Second meeting of the Joint UNECE – WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health (25 and 26 February 2001, to be confirmed).
Adoption of proposals and recommendations for the High-level Meeting.

July 2002: Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, to be held at the Ministerial level, to

- (a) endorse the Vienna mid-term review and the evaluation of the implementation of the London Charter
 - (b) finalize the rationalisation of the London and Vienna follow-up processes and consolidation of institutional mechanisms and priorities for future action
 - (c) decide whether to start negotiations on a framework convention on Transport, Environment and Health.
-