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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring
(Special session, 28-29 November 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 28 November

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Support to the development of the Kiev Assessment report:
 - (a) Findings of the assessment;
 - (b) Individual report chapters.
3. Other contributions on environmental monitoring and information to the Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe":
 - (a) Lessons learned from data collection for the Kiev Assessment;
 - (b) Guidelines on improving national state-of-the-environment reporting;
 - (c) Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems.
4. Post Kiev reporting at the pan-European level.
5. Other business.

PRELIMINARY TIME SCHEDULE

Thursday, 28 November 2002

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 1 – 2 (b)

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Item 2 (b) (cont'd)

Friday, 29 November 2002

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Item 2 (b) (cont'd) – 3 (a)

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Items 3 (b) - 5

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Working Group is open to all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 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 participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). The registration procedure is described in the annex.

In addition to country members in the Working Group, national focal points of the European Environment Agency (EEA) will be invited to participate in the special session.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Support to the development of the Kiev Assessment report

(a) Findings of the assessment

The Working Group will consider a draft executive summary of the Kiev report to be prepared by EEA. It may wish to discuss main findings of the pan-European assessment of the environment, in particular those relating to:

- (i) Major environmental trends and threats at the pan-European level and individual subregions;
- (ii) Progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions;
- (iii) Progress made in integrating environmental policies into sectoral and other policies;
- (iv) Development of monitoring and information systems to support environmental decision-making.

The Working Group may wish to decide to transmit its conclusions, as part of the report's executive summary, to the Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" through the Committee on Environmental Policy and the preparatory working group for the Conference.

(b) Individual report chapters

The Working Group will review draft chapters in the following sequence:

- (i) Developments in socio-economic sectors;
- (ii) Prominent environmental problems;
- (iii) Cross-cutting impacts: biodiversity and human health;
- (iv) Managing the environment and sustainable development.

Item 3: Other contributions on environmental monitoring and information to the Kiev Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

(a) Lessons learned from data collection for the Kiev Assessment

The Working Group will discuss a draft paper to be prepared by EEA in cooperation with the secretariat on the results of data collection for the Kiev report, including difficulties met in this exercise, weaknesses in data availability, comparability and reporting at the national and international levels, and possible measures required to improve and streamline the development of national environmental monitoring activities and to facilitate pan-European assessments at the same time.

(b) Guidelines on improving national state-of-the-environment reporting

The Working Group will consider the results of a Workshop on National Environment Reporting to be held in Moscow on 4-5 November 2002. It is expected to agree on draft guidelines for improving national state-of-the-environment reporting as prepared by the Workshop. Inputs by EEA member countries on national state-of-the-environment reporting in Western and Central Europe will also be made available .

(c) Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems

The Working Group may wish to discuss the type of possible recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems that could be transmitted to Ministers in Kiev for endorsement. These may ensue, inter alia, from:

- (i) Conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Working Group as a result of the evaluation of the situation with environmental monitoring and information in nine countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (ii) The inventory of international environmental databases in the UNECE region.

Item 4: Post Kiev reporting at the pan-European level

The Working Group will exchange views on reporting at the pan-European level after the Kiev Conference including future needs for pan-European reviews, the relation with reporting at the global level and possible organizational models.

Item 5: Other business

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

Annex**REGISTRATION**

According to the revised accreditation procedures, all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to fill in a registration form in English. It can be downloaded from the web site <http://www.unece.org/stats/geneva.html> .

The completed registration form should be sent to Ms. E. Mary, UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (e-mail: elisabeth.mary@unece.org, fax: +41 22 917 06 30) as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the beginning of the session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring.

Registered participants will have to pick up their identification badges for entry in the Palais des Nations before the meeting at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit. This is located at the Villa des Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (the map can be consulted on the above-mentioned web site). The Unit is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.