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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials

“Environment for Europe”

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION

Introduction

1. The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials took place from 19 to 21 February 2003, in Geneva. On the first day, 19 February, the Working Group held a joint session with the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
3. Representatives of the Commission of the European Communities (EU) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) also attended, as did representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization’s Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and the World Bank.
4. The following additional intergovernmental organizations were represented: Council of Europe, the EAP Task Force Secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), and the Project Preparation Committee (PPC).

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Eco-Accord, European Eco-Forum and European Environment Bureau.

6. Also represented were the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), the Regional Environmental Center for Central Europe and Eastern Europe (REC) and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Russian Federation.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr. Vasyl Shevchuk (Ukraine), Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The Working Group adopted its agenda (CEP/AC.11/2003/1).

II. SPEECH BY THE UNECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

8. In her opening address, Mrs. B. Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, highlighted the unique nature of the “Environment for Europe” ministerial process, particularly for the transparency of the process and the inclusiveness of all major actors within the region. Referring specifically to the fifth Ministerial Conference in Kiev, Mrs. Schmögnerová emphasized the importance of establishing new partnerships through, for example, the East-West Environmental Partnership for Sustainable Development and the water, environment and security initiative among Central Asian countries.

9. The Executive Secretary stressed that one of the most important tasks for the future would be to link the “Environment for Europe” process with the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the related objectives of the Committee on Environmental Policy.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN TRANSITION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TEN YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

10. The Committee had discussed the document on Environmental policy in transition: lessons learned from ten years of UNECE environmental performance (CEP/AC.11/2003/13), as revised by the secretariat on the basis of the comments provided at the ninth session, together with the executive summary (CEP/AC.11/2003/14).

11. The Working Group welcomed the documents and stressed the importance and value of the Environmental Performance Review Programme for the “Environment for Europe” process. Delegates provided comments on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report, and the report was revised accordingly.

12. The Working Group decided that the report on environmental policy in transition, and its executive summary, should be submitted to the Kiev Conference as category I documents.

IV. UPDATE ON UNECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

13. The secretariat informed the Working Group of the status of the preparations for the following legal instruments:

- The draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to the Espoo Convention;
- The draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR) to the Aarhus Convention; and
- The draft protocol on civil liability and for compensation damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters within the scope of both the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

14. Both the text of the draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment and a ministerial resolution on the protocol had been finalized. An extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention had been requested. The documents had been submitted for translation, and the advance English version of the draft protocol was available on the Convention's web site.

15. Negotiations on the draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers had also been successfully concluded. Having been reviewed by a group of legal experts, the draft protocol was ready to be submitted for formal adoption and signature at the Kiev Conference. The advance English copy of the draft protocol would be available by the end of February, and the Russian and French translations of the document approximately four weeks later. An informal meeting of representatives of prospective Signatories to the protocol and of the Parties to the Convention was scheduled to be held in Kiev on 20 May 2003, to finalize a draft resolution of the Signatories. The protocol would be open for signature by all Member States of the United Nations.

16. Regarding the draft protocol on civil liability, expectations were that negotiations would be completed during the seventh negotiation meeting, scheduled to take place in Geneva on 26-27 February 2003.¹ Thus, it was foreseen that this document would also be ready for the Kiev Conference.

17. The secretariat informed the Working Group that during the Kiev Conference extraordinary sessions of the Parties to each of the Conventions would be organized. The secretariat further emphasized the necessity for delegations to ensure that their appropriate representatives at the Kiev Conference obtained the necessary powers for signing the new protocols.

18. The Working Group welcomed the progress in the negotiations and stressed the importance of these legal instruments. Their inclusion on the agenda for Kiev was strongly supported.

¹ The draft protocol was finalized on 27 February 2003.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

19. Mr. Yu. Tsaturov, Chair of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring, noted its contributions to the Kiev Assessment report and to three other documents, namely Lessons learned from data collection for the Kiev assessment report; Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and Guidelines for Developing state-of-the-environment reports in these countries.

20. A representative of the European Environment Agency informed the Working Group of Senior Officials that an advance version of the Kiev Assessment would be finalized in English by the end of March, and that its official release would take place on 12-13 May in Brussels, Geneva and Moscow, simultaneously. The report's summary would also be published by the end of March, in English, French, Russian and Spanish (and possibly in Greek). He stressed that EEA was also trying to secure funds for publication of the Kiev Assessment in Russian.

21. Delegations thanked both the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and the European Environment Agency for their contributions to the Kiev Conference. They supported the continuation of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring's activities after the Conference and emphasized its important role in facilitating future regional environmental assessments, enhancing international comparability of environmental information in priority areas, and strengthening monitoring and reporting capacities in countries in transition that were not EEA members. The representative of EEA emphasized that, building on the successful cooperation between the Working Group and EEA, a stronger institutional and financial basis should be provided to develop this cooperation further after the Kiev Conference.

22. The Working Group adopted the Recommendations on strengthening national environmental monitoring and information systems in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as Guidelines for developing state-of-the-environment reports in these countries, and agreed to transmit these documents, together with a paper on Lessons learned from data collection for the Kiev Assessment, to the Kiev Conference.

VI. ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION

23. The delegation of Sweden reported to the Working Group of Senior Officials about the main outcome of the second meeting of the drafting group on environment and education, which had taken place in Moscow on 22 November 2002. On the basis of the comments provided at the fourth session of the Working Group (7-8 November 2002), the drafting group had prepared the documents on education for sustainable development and suggested that two documents should be submitted to the Kiev Conference: a short political ministerial statement (CEP/AC.11/2003/19) for decision by the Ministers and an annex on basic elements for a UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development (CEP/AC.11/2003/19/Add.1 and 2) for the post-Kiev work.

24. The drafting group had suggested among other things that UNECE should initiate a regional process, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and relevant regional actors, such as the Council of Europe, on this issue. The Kiev Conference would provide the first step towards the development and future

implementation of the strategy, but drafting it would require the establishment of a task force. The Working Group congratulated the two co-chairs of the drafting group, Sweden and the Russian Federation, for their successful work. All participants supported the overall proposals of the drafting group, and it was agreed that the process should start immediately after the Kiev Conference. There was general consensus that this issue was a priority for the region.

25. The document was adopted as amended by the Working Group. However, the decision on which organization, UNECE or UNESCO, should initiate the regional follow-up process was left pending. It was agreed that the UNECE secretariat would approach UNESCO to determine its capacity and willingness to take the initiative to establish and follow through on a regional process to develop and implement a UNECE regional strategy for education for sustainable development; whether it was ready to do so immediately after the Kiev Conference; and how it would envisage the process. It was decided that, on the basis of the provided comments and taking into account the result of the communication with UNESCO, the draft statement would be finalized for submission to the Kiev Conference.

VII. GUIDELINES ON COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

26. The delegation of the Netherlands, as Chair of the Task Force on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, gave a brief presentation of the Guidelines (CEP/AC.11/2003/18) and the process by which they were developed. Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work of the Task Force and approved the Guidelines for submission to the Kiev Conference as a category I document. They stressed the importance of this instrument for the future implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

VII. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

A. Guidelines on reforming energy pricing and subsidies

27. The UNECE secretariat introduced the draft guidelines on reforming energy pricing and subsidies (CEP/AC.11/2003/9 and Add.1 and 2) prepared by a task force established jointly by the Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy and adopted by the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

28. Several delegations supported the draft guidelines as a practical result of cooperative work between the energy and environmental community in the region on a topical issue, but there was not initially full consensus. Consequently, the Chair of the Working Group established a small drafting group, which amended the guidelines.

29. On the basis of these amendments, the Working Group adopted the guidelines on reforming energy pricing and subsidies for submission to the Kiev Conference on the understanding that the texts of the two annexes would also be submitted to the Conference, as explanatory notes.

B. Energy efficiency

30. The representative from the Energy Charter secretariat presented a draft policy statement on energy efficiency (CEP/AC.11/2003/24) as a possible input to the Ministerial Declaration and as a category I document.

31. The delegation of Greece, speaking on behalf of the EU, circulated a draft statement on energy efficiency and informed the Working Group that it would provide further comments on the document submitted by the Energy Charter secretariat. It was agreed to continue discussions on the draft policy statement on energy efficiency at the Working Group's next session.

32. The representative of Energy Charter secretariat also informed the Working Group that the Progress report on the implementation of the energy-related decisions of the Aarhus Conference would be finalized in March for submission to the Kiev Conference as a category II document.

IX. PHASE-OUT OF LEADED PETROL

33. The Meeting welcomed the progress report provided by the delegation of Denmark on the implementation of the pan-European Strategy to phase out leaded petrol (CEP/AC.11/2003/12). It welcomed furthermore the executive summary of a review containing the results of a questionnaire-based survey that covered all signatories to the Strategy as well as other European countries.

34. The Working Group recommended that the report should be submitted to the Kiev Conference as a category II document, for information.

X. FUTURE OF THE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" PROCESS

35. The Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy, who had served as Chair of the drafting group on the future of the "Environment for Europe" process, reported on the work of the drafting group, which had met four times in Geneva, on 12 September, 2 October, 3 December 2002 and 31 January 2003. He introduced the paper prepared by the drafting group, taking into account the comments made by the Working Group at its fourth session in November 2002 (CEP/AC.11/2003/7/Rev.1). The paper was well received and valued as an important contribution to the preparations for the Kiev Conference.

36. Participants provided a number of comments on the document. The majority supported a long-term strategic approach for the environmental policy in the region, within a pan-European context. At the same time, many participants proposed that subregional initiatives should be given more explicit attention. Consideration was also given to the idea of merging the Working Group of Senior Officials and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, giving the Committee a mandate to prepare ministerial meetings, coordinate and monitor the process. It was noted that this would require changes to its terms of reference, particularly with regard to including the partner organizations in the "Environment for Europe" process.

37. Comments were also made on a number of other issues, for example, the composition of the Bureau, the manner in which closer cooperation could be forged between the "Environment

for Europe” process and the health and environment process, the institutional arrangements concerning the EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee, the role of the regional environment centres, and the frequency and nature of future “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences.

38. At the request of the Working Group, the Chair of the drafting group drafted a revised text, incorporating all suggestions provided by the Working Group. On the basis of the revised text, the Working Group decided to accept paragraphs 1- 8, 10-11, 13-22, 24-35, 38, 39, 42 and 44-46 of document CEP/AC.11/2003/7/Rev.1. It was also agreed that members could provide written comments to the Chair of the drafting group by the end of March for inclusion in a second revision, to be discussed by the Working Group at its next session, on 3-4 April 2003, in Geneva.

39. The Working Group also mandated the secretariat to ensure that the document be consistent with the Ministerial Declaration and the Pan-European Environment Strategy for EECCA countries and that, in all of these documents, the same subregional definitions are used, such as South-East Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), ECE or pan-European region.

XI. MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

40. The Chair of the drafting group on the ministerial declaration introduced the draft declaration (CEP/AC.11/2003/6) prepared on the basis of comments provided by delegates and discussions of the drafting group on 4 December 2002 and on 7 February 2003, in Geneva. The Working Group welcomed the paper and emphasized that significant progress had been made.

41. The Working Group offered a number of comments on the draft declaration. Among the suggestions were that more emphasis should be given to policy integration and transboundary water issues, including the initiative for environment, water and security in Central Asia; that stronger language should be used for text on chemicals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), biodiversity, and energy. It was also suggested that the declaration could highlight the potential of debt-for-environment swaps.

42. Overall, it was agreed that the ministerial declaration should reflect all issues to be addressed at the Kiev Conference and that it should be consistent with the papers on the future of “Environment for Europe” process and the Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

43. The representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the EU, underlined the importance of the proposed strategy on education for sustainable development and emphasized that it should be reflected in the document.

44. At the request of the Chair a small drafting group met during the session to incorporate the suggestions that had been offered by the Working Group. The revised draft was circulated among the delegations. Additional comments were requested, in writing, from the participants by 9 March, after which it was agreed that the UNECE secretariat would prepare a new draft for discussion by the Working Group at its next session. The delegation of Ukraine kindly offered to translate the revised draft ministerial declaration into Russian for that session.

45. The representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the EU, recalled that, following a meeting of EU Environment Ministers on 4 March 2002, the EU would need to hold a coordination meeting before providing its comments to the secretariat. It would therefore not be able to meet the 9 March deadline.

XII. EAST-WEST ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EECCA ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

46. The representative of Georgia informed the Working Group of the outcome of the meeting of the Steering Group for the elaboration of the environment strategy for EECCA that had taken place in Tbilisi on 8-9 February 2003. On the basis of the comments provided at this meeting, a shortened, revised draft of the strategy was prepared.

47. The Working Group welcomed the outcome of the meeting in Tbilisi on the environment strategy for EECCA and provided a number of comments on both the title and the content of the document.

48. With regard to the title, most participants favoured "East-West Partnership: Environment Strategy for EECCA countries," but no final decision was taken.

49. With regard to the content and purpose of the strategy, the Working Group agreed that it could serve as a framework for partnerships among countries in the region, especially partnerships involving financial and technical assistance. It could also help international organizations and institutions to coordinate their programmes in the EECCA countries and clearly identify international initiatives to support the objectives stated in the strategy.

50. There was concern, however, that the document lacked practical suggestions. To be most effective, the strategy should be a concise document focusing on a few principal objectives and specific actions for implementation.

51. The representative of Eco-Forum asked that the issues of trade and forestry be introduced into the paper, and that more attention be given to the linkages among the different sectors.

52. The Working Group agreed that the strategy was important and should be on the agenda of the Kiev Conference. Possible issues concerning institutional or other arrangements for implementation would be viewed also in the context of the discussion on the future of the "Environment for Europe" process. Procedural issues related to the implementation of any strategy could be resolved during negotiations of the Ministerial Declaration. The Working Group stressed that the drawing-up and implementation of the strategy should be open to all those who are interested.

53. At the request of the Chair, a small drafting group, led by the representative of Georgia, met during the session and introduced amendments in a new draft dated 21 February. It was agreed that the UNECE secretariat would distribute this draft by e-mail to delegates for further comments. Final negotiations on the document would be held during the next session of the Working Group.

XIII. ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

54. The secretariats of both UNECE and CAREC informed the Working Group on the status of this issue and introduced the report of the meeting in Almaty (Kazakhstan), on 30-31 January 2003 and the paper "Invitation to Partnership" (CEP/AC.11/2003/11 and Add.1 and 2).

55. The Almaty meeting, which had been jointly organized by UNECE and CAREC, included representatives of both Environment Ministries and Water Ministries, as well as of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS). All States from Central Asia, with the exception of Turkmenistan, had participated in the meeting and agreed to propose "Environment, Water and Security" as an agenda item for the Kiev Conference. A prior meeting on this issue had been organized in Khoudhjand (Tajikistan), on 1-2 October 2002. Both the meetings in Almaty and in Khoudhjand had been held with support from the Government of Norway.

56. The Working Group thanked the countries of Central Asia for their initiative and agreed that it should be included on the agenda of the Kiev Conference and reflected in the Ministerial Declaration.

57. The representative of UNEP informed the Working Group about the joint initiative of UNEP, UNDP and OSCE (and possibly the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which had expressed an interest) and other organizations on environment and security issues linked to the subregions of South Europe and Central Asia. This initiative could be presented during the Kiev Conference in a side event.

XIV. BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

58. The representative of the OECD/EAP Task Force introduced this item. Following a request at the previous meeting, he had prepared a paper on this issue, together with the Chair of PPC, and submitted it to the Executive Committee at its previous meeting. The OECD/EAP Task Force and PPC representatives suggested that the issue of environmental finance might provide a more appropriate focus for discussion at the Kiev Conference than business partnerships. They agreed to draft a paper that could support such a discussion for the next session of the Working Group.

XV. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

59. The representative of Denmark introduced the document on the EU Water Initiative (Strategic partnership on water for sustainable development) (CEP/AC.11/2003/25). Many delegations welcomed this initiative as an important input to the Kiev Conference. The delegation of Denmark asked members to provide it with comments on the document.

60. It was decided that the delegation of Denmark would finalize the document for submission to the Kiev Conference on the basis of the comments provided.

XVI. THE KIEV AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK IN KIEV CONFERENCE

61. The Chair introduced a revised draft organization of work for the Kiev Conference (CEP/AC.11/2003/4/Rev.1), prepared by the Kiev Secretariat on the basis of comments made during the sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the Executive Committee. The revised draft responded, in particular, to the concern that more time should be provided to Ministers to speak during the Conference.
62. The Working Group thanked the Kiev Secretariat for its work and agreed that, in general, the organization of work now provided a good basis for discussion and consideration of all important items during the Conference. Suggestions for further revision included the possibility of providing additional time for sessions on monitoring, the ten-year review of the Environmental Performance Review Programme and the joint Ministerial-NGO session. Suggestions were also made to organize the Conference into three thematic sessions, for example, on (a) the state of the environment, priority issues for the region, the ten-year review of the Environmental Performance Reviews and the Kiev Report; (b) partnerships, including the EECCA strategy, or, alternatively, “delivering the World Summit on Sustainable Development;” and (c) a discussion on the future of the “Environment for Europe” process. Some delegates also proposed that the signing ceremonies for the protocols should be held in parallel.
63. The Working Group stressed that it was now also very important to identify the persons who would chair each of the sessions as well as the keynote speakers during the Conference.
64. It was decided that the Kiev Secretariat would prepare a final proposal for the organization of work prior to the next session of the Working Group.

XVII. CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT MINISTERIAL-NGO SESSION

65. The delegation of Eco-Forum introduced the proposal for a joint session between Ministers and NGOs (CEP/AC.11/2003/28). The programme foresaw three main blocks: one on letting the market work for the environment; a second on an example of sectoral policy integration; and a third on how to overcome the institutional weaknesses that prevented integration.
66. The delegation of Eco-Forum informed the Working Group that it had decided to focus on agriculture for the second block. Some delegates, however, questioned the effectiveness of including this as a topic when Ministers of Agriculture would not be present. A few participants also expressed concern with regard to the first block, since it was unlikely that there would be any Ministers of Economy or Finance, but most delegations supported this cluster of topics. The Working Group also suggested that there might not be sufficient time to have a good discussion on three different topics, and many delegates proposed that more time should be allocated than the two hours foreseen in the draft organization of work.
67. All delegates welcomed the initiative of Eco-Forum and confirmed that this session would be one of the important agenda items of the Kiev Conference. It was decided that Eco-Forum would prepare a revised proposal for submission to the Working Group at its next meeting.

XVIII. BIODIVERSITY-RELATED ISSUES

68. The delegation of UNEP reported on behalf of PEBLDS on its contribution to the Kiev Conference. The document for decision by Ministers would be “Kiev resolution on biological and landscape diversity” (CEP/AC.11/2003/22). The Council of PEBLDS had met in January 2003 and decided on the final draft and on the submission of the document to the Kiev Conference.

69. There would, in addition, be a number of accompanying information documents, including those on the European Landscape Convention, the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, the Code of Practice for the Introduction of Biological and Landscape Considerations into the Transport Sector, a political message from the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to the Ministerial Conference, the Pan-European Ecological Network, the Declaration of the High-level Pan-European Conference on Agriculture and Biodiversity, the European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative-Finance and Biodiversity, the European Biodiversity Monitoring and Indicator Framework, the Report on the Service for Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and a framework cooperation between “Environment for Europe” and PEBLDS and MCPFE.

70. The Working Group welcomed the initiatives on biodiversity matters and noted that they were important contributions to the Kiev Conference. It also provided comments on the text of the resolution and approved the document as amended for submission to the Kiev Conference.

71. In addition, the representative from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) stressed the importance of close cooperation with both the “Environment for Europe” process and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS).

XIX. CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

72. The representative from UNEP introduced the document on the status of the preparatory process for the Carpathian convention (CEP/AC.11/2003/20) and informed the Working Group about the substantial progress in the development of this initiative.

73. The fourth Meeting on the Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians will be hosted by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International – Danube Carpathian Programme in Vienna, on 24-25 February 2003. The Meeting was expected to conclude its consideration of the geographical scope of the convention, to have a final reading of the draft text, and to continue the consideration of pending matters.

74. Italy has offered to host the fifth Meeting on the Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, with the tentative date and venue of 20-21 March 2003, in Bolzano, Italy. The purpose will be to finalize any outstanding issues, to have a complete wrap-up of the final text, to report on the progress of national approval procedures and to agree on a draft ministerial resolution for inclusion into the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. It is expected that the final draft text of the proposed convention will be available in April 2003.

75. Delegates welcomed the progress made in the preparation of the Carpathian convention and agreed that, once finalized, it should be submitted to the Kiev Conference.

76. The delegation from UNEP expressed its appreciation for the financial support provided by Italy, Austria and the Netherlands in this process.

XX. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Outstanding requirements to support participation in the Ministerial Conference and related meetings

77. The UNECE secretariat introduced a note on the current financial situation with respect to support for participation by national delegations in the Kiev preparatory process and in the Conference itself. In view of the decision to organize an additional session of the Working Group of Senior Officials in April, it was pointed out that all currently available funds for participation were likely to be exhausted prior to the Conference. Countries were requested to provide additional resources to the UNECE Trust Fund for this purpose or to use their bilateral funds to support the participation of other countries directly.

B. Outstanding requirements at the national level to organize the Conference

78. The Kiev Secretariat introduced the national budget (WGSO/EXECOM-8/2003/10) for the Conference, which included contributions both from the Government of Ukraine and from bilateral and multilateral donors. The representative of the Kiev Secretariat noted that there remained a deficit of about US\$ 260,000 needed for publications, translations and logistical matters and called upon donors to provide additional financial support.

79. The delegation of Ukraine expressed its appreciation to Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and UNDP for their financial support.

80. Ukraine also reconfirmed that it would provide accommodation and meals for the heads of all delegations.

XXI. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

81. The Kiev Secretariat informed the Working Group that it had moved the venue for the Conference to new conference facilities in Kiev.

82. It was suggested that the Kiev Secretariat should update its web site to provide delegates with information on logistics, hotels and local sight seeing.

83. The Chair invited delegates to raise public awareness of the Kiev Conference within their respective countries through, for example, press conferences and the mass media, such as television and newspapers. The Kiev Secretariat was asked to provide information on the accreditation of journalists for the Conference.

84. Due to the large number of applications for side events, the Kiev Secretariat had not yet been able to make a selection for approval by the Working Group. It was agreed that this would be taken up at its next session.

85. Delegates approved the revised list of documents to be submitted to the Kiev Conference (CEP/AC.11/2003/8/Rev.1). It was agreed also to include a note on the Conference on Renewable Energy as a category II document, as requested by the representative of Germany.

XXII. PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE WORKING GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

86. The Working Group decided to organize an additional (sixth) session on 3-4 April 2003 in Geneva, and a seventh session on 17 and 19 May, in Kiev, immediately prior to the Conference.