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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
(Tenth session, 20-22 October 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting on Monday, 20 October 2003, at 10 a.m.**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Commission of concern to the Committee.
3. Informal round-table discussions on “The environment in a changing region”.
4. Regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
5. Presentation of the environmental performance review of Azerbaijan and adoption of the recommendations.
6. Outcome of the Kiev Ministerial Conference:
 - (a) Environmental monitoring;
 - (b) Future of the environmental performance review process;
 - (c) Energy and the environment;
 - (d) Education for sustainable development;
 - (e) Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (f) Environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia;
 - (g) Other items:
 - (i) Communication strategy;
 - (ii) Sustainable consumption patterns.

7. ECE multilateral environmental agreements:
 - (a) Support to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (b) Ongoing activities related to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements which need special attention.
8. Future ECE strategic directions for the environment.
9. Intersectoral activities:
 - (a) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP);
 - (b) Environment and Health: Preparations for the 2004 Budapest Ministerial Conference.
10. Adoption of the 2003-2006 programme of work.
11. Financial assistance to countries with economies in transition and countries' contributions to the ECE trust funds.
12. Special session of the Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe".
13. Any other business.
14. Election of officers for the eleventh session.
15. Closing of the tenth session.

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Monday, 20 October 2003

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10-10.15 a.m.)

The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda for its tenth session.

Provisional agenda (ECE/CEP/115)

Item 2: Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Commission of concern to the Committee (10.15-10.30 a.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission that are relevant to the Committee.

Document on matters arising (CEP/2003/17)

Item 3: Informal round-table discussion on “The environment in a changing region” (10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.)

In response to the political and economic changes in Europe and in particular with regard to the enlargement of the European Union, the Committee on Environmental Policy will host an informal round-table discussion on “The environment in a changing region.” Panellists and delegates are invited to share their views on the changes in the region and to assess their environmental implications.

Background discussion paper (CEP/2003/18)

Item 4: Regional implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (3-3.30 p.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, April 2003). It will also be given an account of the preparations of the UNECE regional preparatory meeting for the implementation of the environmental commitments stemming from the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Declaration. The regional preparatory meeting will focus on the priority thematic clusters for the 2004-2005 cycle as decided upon by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, namely water, sanitation and human settlements.

The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided and discuss the preparation of the environmental dimension of the regional meeting, keeping in mind also the decisions taken at the Kiev Conference in this regard.

Item 5: Presentation of the environmental performance review (EPR) of Azerbaijan and adoption of the recommendations (3.30-4.30 p.m.)

The Committee will review the environmental performance of Azerbaijan by conducting a peer review. To that end the outcome of the discussion held during the Expert Group's meeting of 17 October 2003 will be presented to it. The Committee is expected to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations. The Committee will also be informed about the forthcoming reviews of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tajikistan.

Draft EPR of Azerbaijan (CEP/2003/19)

Item 6: Outcome of the Kiev Ministerial Conference

The Committee it is expected to exchange views on the outcome of the Kiev Conference. In particular, it may wish to discuss the decisions concerning the future of the "Environment for Europe" process and the role of the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the Kiev Ministerial Declaration and consider how to reflect the relevant commitments of the Kiev Declaration in its work programme.

Ministerial Declaration adopted in Kiev (ECE/CEP/94/Rev.1), Report of the Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/96), and a table on the follow-up to the Kiev Conference (CEP/2003/20)

(a) Environmental monitoring (4.30-5 p.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring. In line with the Ministerial Declaration, it may wish to discuss and agree on how to further develop the recommendations for improving monitoring capacities in the ECE region through the cooperative framework provided by the Working Group. The Committee is also expected to adopt the updated terms of reference of the Working Group, prepared at its fourth session.

Report on the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group (CEP/AC.10/2003/2), Draft terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group (CEP/AC.10/2003/4)

(b) Future of the environmental performance review process (5-5.30 p.m.)

The Committee is expected to discuss the future of the environmental review process, taking stock of the experience acquired so far. The decisions adopted at the Kiev Conference about the future of the programme will guide the discussions. Eligible countries may wish to express their interest in carrying out a second review.

Document: Environmental performance review programme: the future of the review process. (CEP/2003/21)

(c) Energy and the environment (5.30-6 p.m.)

The Ministers in Kiev endorsed the Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies prepared jointly by the Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy, and invited both Committees to examine the role of economic instruments in promoting the use of renewable energy taking into account the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other international organizations. The Committee on Environmental Policy will be informed about the proposed terms of reference and work programme for the ad hoc working group on renewable energy that the Committee on Sustainable Energy is expected to establish at its session in November 2003.

The Committee on Environmental Policy may wish to discuss how it might be involved in the ad hoc working group on renewable energy to serve as a forum for the joint follow-up to the Kiev decision.

Discussion paper (ENERGY/2003/15)

Tuesday, 21 October 2003

Item 6: Outcome of the Kiev Ministerial Conference (continued)

(d) Education for sustainable development (10-10.30 a.m)

The Committee may wish to discuss the development and implementation of a strategy for education for sustainable development on the basis of the Statement endorsed by Ministers at Kiev. In line with the Ministerial Statement, the joint process for education for sustainable development necessitates the establishment of close links and cooperation with all relevant international actors in the region and in particular with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). To that end, the Committee may wish to decide to establish a task force with educational and environmental experts to develop the strategy.

Framework for future work on education for sustainable development (CEP/2003/22)

(e) Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (10.30-11 a.m.)

Ministers at the Kiev Conference considered the Strategy as an important basis for developing action plans and partnerships and called on UNECE member States, international organizations and institutions to support initiatives to achieve its objectives.

The Committee will be informed about the meeting of the EAP Task Force on the implementation of the Strategy (September 2003). Moreover, the East European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries will be invited to inform the Committee about their actions to implement the Strategy.

The Committee may wish to discuss and decide on the mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation in support of the key objectives and areas of action of the Strategy.

(f) Environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia (11-11.40 a.m.)

The regional adviser and the representatives of the international organizations active in Central Asia are invited to inform the Committee about the environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia. In line with the Ministerial Declaration, the Committee may wish to discuss ways for supporting the efforts of the Central Asian countries, through their Ministries of Environment and Water, NGOs and international organizations, to develop the Central Asian Initiative on Environment, Water and Security.

Pursuing the recommendation to start preparing a partnership agreement on transboundary water problems, environment and security, the Committee may discuss ways in which it could cooperate with the ECE Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and other international organizations for the preparation of a work programme and concrete follow-up. This would also contribute to the follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development launched at the Kiev Conference.

(g) Other items

(i) Communication strategy (11.40-12 a.m.)

Ministers at Kiev stressed the need to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the "Environment for Europe" process among a wider audience of stakeholders and the general public based on its achievements. The Committee was invited to develop this strategy in consultation with other principal subsidiary bodies and in cooperation with other organizations.

The Committee may wish to have a discussion on this issue, based on a proposal put forward by the secretariat.

Document: background paper with elements for a communication strategy (CEP/2003/23)

(ii) Sustainable consumption patterns (12-12.15 a.m.)

A UNECE workshop on encouraging local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns took place in Vienna in 1998. This initiative is being followed up under the joint UNECE-World Health Organization (WHO) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), involving the organization of a workshop in Cyprus in November 2003.

The Committee may wish to take note of the information and discuss possible further activities in this area.

Item 7: ECE multilateral environmental agreements**(a) Support to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (12.15-12.30 a.m.)**

The Committee is expected to discuss the outcome of the informal consultations between the representatives of the Bureaux of the Committee and of the governing bodies of the ECE environmental conventions, held on 3 July 2003, focusing on (i) the ECE strategic directions for the environment (see agenda item 8); (ii) ways to contribute to the implementation of the Guidelines for strengthening Compliance with and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the ECE Region (ECE/CEP/107) and (iii) ways to assist countries to build capacity to implement specific treaty obligations. Based on the discussions, the Committee is invited to decide on possible further action.

Report of the informal consultation between the Committee's Bureau and the conventions' Bureaux (CEP/2003/24)

(b) Ongoing activities related to the ECE multilateral environmental agreements which need special attention (12.30-1 p.m.)

The Committee will be informed of activities foreseen subsequent to the adoption and signature of the Protocols on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Civil Liability, and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) during the extraordinary meetings of the Parties to the four conventions held during the Ministerial Conference in Kiev.

The Committee will also be informed of other key developments and activities under the ECE conventions, highlighting the major achievements and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the conventions and their protocols. The Committee may also wish to exchange ideas on the ways in which it could contribute to the work under the conventions.

Item 8: Future ECE strategic directions for the environment (3-6 p.m.)

The Committee is expected to discuss and adopt the document "Future ECE strategic directions for the environment", which aims at providing the Committee policy guidance for its future work. The Committee is invited to refer to the outcome of (i) the Kiev Ministerial Declaration, (ii) the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation, and (iii) the informal consultation between its and the conventions' Bureaux (CEP/2003/24).

Draft document on future strategic directions for the environment (CEP/2003/25)

Wednesday, 22 October 2003

Item 9: Intersectoral activities

**(a) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)
(10-10.30 a.m.)**

The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the first session of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) Steering Committee held on 10-11 April 2003, in particular with regard to the programme of work that was adopted for 2003-2005. Furthermore, there will be a progress report on the implementation of specific activities.

The Committee may wish to consider ways to further encourage intersectoral cooperation for the implementation of the activities under THE PEP.

Report on the first session of THE PEP Steering Committee (ECE/AC.21/2003/6)

**(c) Environment and Health: Preparations for the 2004 Budapest Ministerial
Conference (10.30-11 a.m.)**

The Committee will be informed of the meetings held in Copenhagen in April 2003, in Stockholm in June 2003 and in Prague on 9-10 October 2003 for the preparation of the Budapest Ministerial Conference. Two additional intergovernmental meetings are scheduled to take place on 27-28 November 2003 in Evora, Portugal, and another (venue to be decided) on 3-4 March 2004.

During the latest preparatory meetings, the discussions concentrated on three major areas to be addressed at the Budapest Conference: (i) review of progress since the previous conference; (ii) strengthening the policy-making base; (iii) issues of emerging or increasing importance.

It is expected that the major policy outcomes of the Conference will be a conference declaration which will summarize the commitment by the member States to addressing specific environment and health issues across Europe and a children's environment and health action plan for Europe (CEHAPE).

The Committee may wish take note of the information. Delegations are invited to coordinate, with their national counterparts in the health sector, the appropriate input to the preparatory process for the above Ministerial Conference.

Annual report of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC)

Item 10: Adoption of the 2003-2006 programme of work (11-11.30 a.m.)

The Committee will discuss the directions of its work and corresponding activities, based on the "Future ECE strategic directions for the environment," the Kiev Declaration, the programme narratives of the environment subprogramme for the 2004-2005 biennium and the draft programme of work derived from them. It will take decisions on each programme element and related activities and adopt the programme, specifying new activities, if any, as compared to those planned for 2004 in the 2004-2005 programme budget. In the review, attention should be paid also to cross-sectoral approaches, in particular gender.

Draft programme of work of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/115/Add.1)

Item 11: Financial assistance to countries with economies in transition and countries' contributions to the ECE trust funds (11.30-11.45 a.m)

The Committee will be informed about the current status of the trust funds and donor countries are invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds.

Updated criteria for financial support

Item 12: Special session of the Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" (11.45-11.50 a.m.)

The Bureau requested the Committee on Environmental Policy to take note of and agree to the decision taken at the Kiev Conference on the convening of a special session of the Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" to decide on the host country and the date of the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe". The special session of the Working Group of Senior Officials is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 23 October, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Item 13: Any other business (11.50-12.20 a.m.)

Delegations may wish to raise any other point.

Item 14: Election of officers for the eleventh session (12.20-12.40 a.m.)

The Committee is expected to elect a chairperson and members of its Bureau.

Item 15: Closing of the tenth session (12.40-1 p.m.)

The Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat will sum up the Committee's conclusions and decisions. The secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, will finalize the report of the tenth session for circulation to the member countries.

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For advance copies, please visit the Committee's web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/>)

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Special session of the Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe (3-6 p.m.)

Annex



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10th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy Attention: Ms. N. Hari Fax: 0041 22 907 0107

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