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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials  
“Environment for Europe”

Second meeting  
Geneva, 29–30 June 2006  
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES THAT COULD PROVIDE INPUT  
TO THE AGENDA OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE\***

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson

1. Following the request from the first meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO), the secretariat has prepared an overview of activities that could provide input into the agenda of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to be held in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro) in October 2007 (hereafter the Conference). This overview was developed on the basis of the themes provisionally identified for the Conference at the first meeting of the WGSO, and with input from the partners in the “Environment for Europe” process.

2. The contributions received from partners were assigned to one of the three categories of documents in accordance with the document on organizational issues for the Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/5). The expected outputs of activities that fall under categories I and II were included in the following table. Other proposed activities are described in an informal document (Information Paper No 1).

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\* This document was submitted on the above date because of processing delays.

3. For some of the topics suggested at the first meeting of the WGSO and the second meeting of the Executive Committee, and therefore mentioned in the document on possible themes for the Conference agenda (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/3), no concrete activities have been proposed thus far.
4. Some partners expressed interest in submitting a contribution to the agenda of the Conference at a later stage of the preparatory process.
5. The Executive Committee at its second meeting (on 24 February 2006) noted the large number of assessments and analytical papers that are being prepared for the Conference and discussed how to distil from these the key messages that Ministers should focus on in order to facilitate their work at the Conference. Some support was expressed for a synthesis report to include key messages of Category I and II documents, as appropriate, for consideration and decision by the WGSO. It was furthermore suggested that each of the relevant reports include an executive summary with key messages to facilitate the task of developing a synthesis report in time for the Conference.

### Overview of activities that could provide input to the agenda of the Belgrade Conference<sup>1</sup>

| Topic/<br>implementing body  | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category         | Current status  | Date of<br>expected<br>output |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Monitoring and assessment</b>   |   |                                       |   |                               |
| Assessment of the state of the environment in Europe (EEA <sup>2</sup> in coordination with OECD <sup>3</sup> , UNEP <sup>4</sup> , WB <sup>5</sup> , UNECE <sup>6</sup> and with support to data collection in EECCA <sup>7</sup> from CAREC <sup>8</sup> and REC-Caucasus <sup>9</sup> ) | Europe's environment: the fourth assessment                                       | Assessment report (Category I)        | Preparation process started in December 2005. EC/TACIS <sup>10</sup> funding expected to support EEA work in covering EECCA countries is still pending. | May 2007                      |
| Strengthening environmental information and observation capacity<br><br>(UNECE)  | Guidelines on the application of environmental indicators                         | Recommendations to EECCA (Category I) | In preparation by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA)  | End 2006                      |
|  | Guidelines on strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises | Recommendations to EECCA (Category I) | In preparation by the UNECE WGEMA   | Early 2007                    |
|  | Guidelines on the state of environmental reporting by regions <sup>11</sup>       | Recommendations to EECCA (Category I) | In preparation by the UNECE WGEMA   | Early 2007                    |

<sup>1</sup> The titles and explanatory text for some activities in the table will be clarified with the relevant implementing body.

<sup>2</sup> European Environment Agency.

<sup>3</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Environment Programme.

<sup>5</sup> World Bank.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

<sup>7</sup> The 12 countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

<sup>8</sup> Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.

<sup>9</sup> Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus.

<sup>10</sup> European Commission/Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent Countries.

<sup>11</sup> Subnational level.

| Topic/<br>implementing body   | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category                              | Current status  | Date of<br>expected<br>output   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Environmental partnerships in the UNECE region (the implementation)</b>  |   |  |   |   |
| Assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy (EAP Task Force <sup>12</sup> in cooperation with EEA, UNECE, UNEP, UNDP <sup>13</sup> , WHO <sup>14</sup> , World Bank and EECCA RECs <sup>15</sup> ) | Progress in environmental management in EECCA countries | Analytical (Category I)                                    | The concept has been developed after discussions with representatives from EECCA governments, international organizations, EECCA RECs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). An outline is being prepared and will be discussed in a regional workshop in April–May 2006.   | May 2007  |
|   | (EAP Task Force)  | Guiding Principles for Environmental Integrated Permitting | Guidelines (Category I or II)   | This document presents key policy, procedural and institutional elements for strengthening environmental permitting systems in the EECCA region. These elements aim to support creation of a regulatory framework for environmental management in enterprises and for government compliance assurance programmes. The emphasis is on the introduction of integrated permitting for large enterprises and a simplified system for SMEs to reduce administrative and compliance costs and provide incentives for pollution reduction. |
| (EAP Task Force)  | Progress Report on Partnerships                         | Analytical (Category II)                                   | This report will be prepared based on the information provided through the Partnerships Database. A first draft will be prepared for the EAP Task Force-PPC joint meeting (Sept. 2006), and the report will be updated and finalized by May 2007.   | May 2007  |
| (EAP Task Force)  | Trends in Environmental Finance                         | Analytical (Category II)                                   | This report will report on data collected from EECCA countries, donors and IFIs to compile a picture of financial flows for environmental purposes. The report will also integrate the conclusions emerging from the EAP Task Force's work on the cost-effective use of financial resources and mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources. | Spring 2007   |

<sup>12</sup> Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>14</sup> World Health Organization.

<sup>15</sup> Regional Environmental Centres.

| Topic/<br>implementing body                       | Expected output  | Nature of output/<br>category    | Current status  | Date of<br>expected<br>output |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| (EAP Task Force)                                  | Assessment of Reform of Environmental Compliance Assurance Systems in EECCA  | Analytical<br>(Category II)      | This report will review progress in reforming policies, instruments and institutional frameworks for enforcement of and compliance with environmental requirements in EECCA. The report will use as assessment references the Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Agencies in the Transition Economies that were adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference (Kiev, 2003) and the Guidelines for Introducing Integrated Environmental Permitting in EECCA. | Spring<br>2007                |
| (EAP Task Force)                                  | Financing the water supply and sanitation sector in EECCA countries, including progress in achieving water-related Millennium Development Goals. <sup>16</sup> | Analytical<br>(Category II)      | This report will build on discussions at the 2005 Yerevan Meeting of Finance, Economy and Environment Ministers on financing water supply and sanitation sector reform in EECCA countries.  | Spring<br>2007                |
| Project Preparation Committee<br>(PPC)            | PPC Report to the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”  | Progress report<br>(Category II) | Work on the report will begin in mid-2006. It will include results achieved in terms of leveraging environment-related investments in the EECCA and SEE regions since the PPC report to the Fifth Ministerial Conference (Kiev, 2003). Meanwhile, the PPC is preparing to roll out a number of Project Financing Workshops across the region as part of its capacity-building activities.   | Summer<br>2007                |
| EU Water Initiative <sup>17</sup> – EECCA<br>(EC) | Information on achievements  | Progress report<br>(Category II) | The possibility of starting National Policy Dialogues will be discussed by the Working Group in April 2006 and further agreed by involved EECCA countries.  | Mid-2007                      |

<sup>16</sup> This output is also relevant to the water theme.

<sup>17</sup> The activity is also relevant to the water theme.

| Topic/<br>implementing body  | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category                             | Current status   | Date of<br>expected<br>output |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Central Asia Initiative on Sustainable Development (Governments of Central Asia with support from CAREC) | Assessment of progress in Central Asia and strengthening of existing coordination mechanisms at the subregional and national levels; development at a practical level of sustainable finance programmes, partnership agreements. The report will review progress and propose practical tools for implementation of Central Asia's commitments under the Millennium Development Goals. | Progress report (including recommendations) (Category II) | Ongoing process based on decision made in Kiev.  | May 2007                      |
| <b>Education for sustainable development (ESD) in the UNECE region</b>                                   |   |   |  |                               |
| Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD <sup>18</sup> (UNECE)                                       | Joint statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment (a short statement highlighting progress made and giving strategic guidance for its continuation)   | Subject to adoption (Category I)                          | A first draft has been commented on by the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD (23 February 2006) and sent to the Steering Committee for consultations at the national/state level               | April 2007                    |
| (UNECE in cooperation with UNESCO <sup>19</sup> )  | Compilation of good practices in ESD  | Background paper (Category II)                            | A template prepared jointly by UNECE and UNESCO has been commented on by the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD (23 February 2006) and sent to governments and key stakeholders for filling in. | May 2007                      |
| (UNECE)  | An independent progress report on the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD that would focus on needs (a first report with an overview of implementation progress based on responses from countries)   | Background paper (Category II)                            | The procedure and timeline for the preparation of the report have been approved by the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD (23 February 2006). Fundraising is under way.                         | May 2007                      |
| (UNECE)  | Reports on implementation by volunteering countries (pilot reporting by volunteering countries using the selected set of indicators)  | Background papers (Category II)                           | The procedure and timeline for the preparation of the reports have been approved by the Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD (23 February 2006).  | May 2007                      |

<sup>18</sup> The initial proposal on outputs was made by the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development at its first meeting (December 2005), and the final proposal presented in this document was considered and recommended by the Steering Committee's Bureau to the second meeting of the Committee (4-5 December 2006).

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

| Topic/<br>implementing body  | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category                        | Current status  | Date of<br>expected<br>output                      |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns (e.g. eco-efficiency, eco-labelling, organic farming)</b> |   |  |   |  |
| SCP patterns in the UNECE region<br>(UNEP in cooperation with Sweden and EEA)                                      | A short, concise and targeted document to facilitate the Ministers' discussion and provide recommendations for a text to be adopted by the Ministers, possibly as part of the Ministerial Declaration. This document should take up findings from the Category II document on SCP and build on existing national and regional processes, activities and partnerships. | Assessment and recommendations<br>(Category I)       | UNEP will provide a draft document for consultation, based on the findings of the case studies and the UNEP/EEA environmental assessment with a view to submitting the final document by February 2007. Preparation of this document is expected to begin in late 2006. | February 2007                                      |
| Mapping SCP in SEE and EECCA countries<br>(UNEP in cooperation with Sweden and EEA)                                | This document will attempt to provide an overview of consumption and production patterns, with case studies from EECCA and SEE countries, and will form a basis for the necessary policy measures and applied best practices to further advance the 10-year framework of programmes.  | Assessment<br>(Category II)                          | UNEP and EEA will produce the document.   | 2007   |
| <b>Cleaner technologies and energy (e.g. renewable and cleaner energy, phase-out of leaded petrol)</b>             |   |  |   |  |
| Progress of energy efficiency efforts<br>(Energy Charter Secretariat)  | Progress report on improving energy efficiency  | Analytical and strategic paper<br>(Category I or II) | The report will survey general trends and analyses of key areas for future energy-efficient and sustainable energy systems. The preparation of the report will start in spring 2006 with a view to providing the expected input in time for the Conference.             | First draft: December 2006; final report: May 2007 |
| Financing energy efficiency<br>(UNECE, Energy Efficiency 21)   | Report on financing energy efficiency and climate change mitigation investments in selected transition economies of the UNECE region.   | Background paper<br>(Category II)                    | Ongoing process to identify the extent of the financial mechanisms attributable to energy efficiency in selected transition economies. Case studies within the context of the new phase of the Energy Efficiency 21 project.  | End 2006   |

| Topic/<br>implementing body   | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category   | Current status   | Date of<br>expected<br>output                                 |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Biodiversity, ecosystems and land degradation</b>  |   |   |  |   |
| Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Targets in the pan-European region (UNEP)   | Report on the Status of Implementation of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity: Achievements, Challenges and Future Action to Reach the 2010 Biodiversity Targets.   | Strategic paper (Category II)   | To be based on the output of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Biodiversity in Europe Conference held in Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia, on 22–24 February 2006.  | Mid-2007  |
| Biodiversity conservation and “Countdown 2010” initiative. A special round-table joint session of the Ministerial Conference and NGOs is proposed. (European ECO-Forum in coordination with the secretariat)  | Open and frank discussion between Ministers and NGOs on biodiversity issues in UNECE (with special focus on Countdown 2010 Initiative, PEBLDS <sup>20</sup> role and status, further actions and partnerships in this area.   | - Strategic paper and recommendations;<br>- Publication on good practices (Category II) | Preparations have started; discussions and fundraising are ongoing.  | Summer 2007 for strategic paper; October 2007 for publication |
| <b>Water (e.g. qualitative and quantitative aspects, transboundary and health-related issues)</b>   |   |   |  |   |
| State of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region (UNECE)   | First assessment report   | Analytical and strategic (Category II)  | The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the UNECE Water Convention prepares the report. A draft outline has been agreed. Questionnaires have been sent and filled in for transboundary rivers and lakes in the EECCA region. At its next meeting (3–5 May 2006), the WGMA will consider a first draft report and agree on future steps. | Belgrade Conference   |
| Payment of ecosystems services in integrated water resources management (UNECE in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention’s secretariat, the UNECE Timber Committee’s secretariat, IUCN <sup>21</sup> , FAO <sup>22</sup> , UNEP, MCPFE <sup>23</sup> and CAREC) | The code of conduct for payments of ecosystems services in integrated water resources management, aiming at providing guidance on the use of payments for ecosystem services to implement integrated water resources management, through the promotion of the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of water-related | Background document (Category II)   | The code is under preparation for adoption by the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention at their fourth meeting in November 2006.  | November 2006   |

<sup>20</sup> Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

<sup>21</sup> World Conservation Union.

<sup>22</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

<sup>23</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.



| Topic/<br>implementing body                                      | Expected output   | Nature of output/<br>category                  | Current status  | Date of<br>expected<br>output |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
|  | ecosystems, at all appropriate levels.  |  |   |                               |
| <b>Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) (policy aspects)</b> |   |  |   |                               |
| (UNECE)  | Report harvesting positive impacts of international cooperation in the countries reviewed under the UNECE EPRs Programme and focussing on the implementation of international commitments and their impact on the modernization of national environmental management and practices. | Assessment<br>(Category I)                     | A one-page document outlining this report will be prepared for consideration by the meeting of the CEP Bureau on 28 June 2006.  | 2007                          |
| <b>Environment and security</b>                                  |   |  |   |                               |
| (UNEP in cooperation with OSCE <sup>24</sup> and UNDP)           | A short, concise and targeted document to facilitate the Ministers' discussion and provide recommendations for a text to be adopted by the Ministers, possibly as part of the Ministerial Declaration.  | Assessment and recommendations<br>(Category I) | UNEP with the environment and security partners (OSCE and UNDP) will provide an initial draft for consultation with a view to submitting a final document by February 2007. | February 2007                 |

<sup>24</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.