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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Fourteenth session
Geneva, 29 May 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION

To be held in the Palais des Nations
starting on Tuesday, 29 May 2007, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the Commission of concern to the Committee.
3. Sustainable development in the UNECE region.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat **no later than two weeks prior to the meeting** – namely, by **15 May 2007** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499.

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

4. Review of the programme of work for 2007–2008:
 - (a) Environmental Performance Reviews;
 - (b) Environmental monitoring;
 - (c) The Committee's contribution to the "Environment for Europe" Conference;
 - (d) The Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (e) The Environment, Water and Security Partnership in Central Asia;
 - (f) The Environment and Security Initiative;
 - (g) Other cross-sectoral activities:
 - (i) The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
 - (ii) Education for sustainable development;
 - (iii) Environment and health.
5. Any other business.
6. Election of officers for the fifteenth session and closing of the fourteenth session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.)

1. The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda for its fourteenth session (ECE/CEP/139).

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the Commission of concern to the Committee (10.30 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.)

2. The Committee will be informed about:
 - (a) The decisions taken by the Commission at its sixty-second session in April 2007, including the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Committee;
 - (b) The UNECE contribution to the fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum with the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments on the environment.
3. The Committee may wish to take note of the decisions taken.

Item 3: Sustainable development in the UNECE region (10.50 a.m. – 11.10 am)

4. The secretariat will inform the Committee about the contribution of UNECE to the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and about the decision by the Commission to hold a third Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development on 28–29 January 2008 on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

5. The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the preparations for the forum and on ways to facilitate the interlinkage between the environment and other sectors concerned.

Item 4: Review of the Programme of work for 2007–2008 (11.10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)

6. The Committee will review its programme of work. Owing to the short interval between the previous session in October 2006 and the present session, the document ECE/CEP/132/Add.1 on the programme of work 2007–2008 will remain unchanged, bearing in mind that at its meeting in April 2008 the Committee will revise the programme of work on the basis of the outcome of the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007). The Committee will also discuss, on the basis of information received in advance, the regular and extra-budgetary resources for all activities relating to the environment.

7. Donor countries are invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds and agree on updated criteria for financial assistance (CRP.3).

8. The Committee is invited to take decisions on each programme element and related activities as follows:

(a) Environmental Performance Reviews (11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

9. The Committee will review the environmental performance of Montenegro and of Serbia by conducting a peer review (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/countriesreviewed.htm>). To that end, the outcome of the discussion on the draft report on the environmental performance of Montenegro and Serbia, held during the meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance (14–16 May 2007), will be presented. The Committee is expected to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations in the draft report.

10. The Committee will also be informed about the launch event of the two reviews to be held during the Belgrade Conference.

11. Following the Committee’s suggestion at its thirteenth session to allocate more time to the discussion of peer reviews at its annual session, the Bureau at its meeting in February 2007 decided that this issue could be considered at the Committee’s next session in April 2008.

(b) Environmental monitoring (3 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.)

12. The Committee will consider the outcome of the seventh session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, held in November 2006 (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/12), especially as regards the preparation of the Belgrade assessment report and capacity-building activities. The Committee may wish to support the content of the documents prepared by the Working Group as follows:

- (a) Guidelines for the application of environmental indicators in EECCA (CRP.1 in English and Russian);
- (b) Guidelines for the preparation of indicator-based environment assessment reports (CRP.2 in English and Russian);
- (c) Recommendations to Governments of EECCA countries for the application of environmental indicators and the preparation of indicator-based environmental assessment reports (ECE/CEP/2007/8);
- (d) Guidelines for strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises (ECE/CEP/2007/9).

13. The Committee will also consider a policy paper (ECE/CEP/2007/7) prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the above documents.

14. Finally, the Committee may wish to provide the Working Group with comments on the work accomplished and in progress, and to decide to discuss, at the next Committee session, the Working Group's possible mandate and tasks for the future.

**(c) The Committee's contribution to the "Environment for Europe" Conference
(3.45 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)**

15. The Committee (at its thirteenth session) and its Bureau (in February 2007) discussed the preparations of a set of draft documents for the Belgrade Conference, namely: (a) From intentions to actions: overcoming bottlenecks: critical issues in implementation of environmental policies highlighted by the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (ECE/CEP/2007/4 and Add.1 and Add.2); (b) Implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (ECE/CEP/2007/5 and Add.1) (also discussed by the meeting of the joint Bureaux of the Committee and the Governing Bodies of the UNECE Conventions in February 2007); (c) Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region (ECE/CEP/2007/6 and Add.1); (d) a table on the follow-up to the Kiev Conference (ECE/CEP/2007/10); and (e) documents related to monitoring and assessment.

16. Delegations are invited to discuss and endorse documents (a)–(d) and submit them through the Working Group of Senior Officials to the Belgrade Conference.

17. The Committee may decide on its monitoring- and assessment-related contribution to the Belgrade Conference in the light of the discussions under agenda item 4 (b).

**(d) The Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
(4.30 p.m. – 4.50 p.m.)**

18. The Committee will be briefed on the contents of the draft report on the implementation of the EECCA Strategy prepared for the Belgrade Conference by the EAP Task Force.¹

19. The Committee at its last session, when discussing the preparations for the review of the EECCA Strategy's implementation, invited the EAP Task Force to complement the report with options for the way forward or with future perspectives for better accomplishing the objectives in the EECCA Strategy for consideration by ministers in Belgrade.

20. The Committee may wish to discuss the report's contents before its finalization.

**(e) The Environment, Water and Security Partnership in Central Asia
(4.50 p.m. – 5 p.m.)**

21. The Committee will be informed about the activities undertaken to support and strengthening the partnership.

22. The Committee may wish to provide comments on actions taken thus far and discuss the input to the Belgrade Conference.

(f) The Environment and Security Initiative (5 p.m. – 5.10 p.m.)

23. The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is a joint UNDP-UNEP-OSCE-UNECE-REC initiative that builds on the combined strengths and field presence of the lead organizations to perform three key functions: assessment and monitoring of environment and security linkages; capacity-building and institutional development; and integration of environmental and security concerns and priorities in international and national policymaking. The secretariat will provide information on the ongoing contribution of UNECE to ENVSEC, which is mainly aimed at strengthening the implementation of the UNECE regional environmental conventions.

24. The Committee may wish to provide comments on actions taken.

¹ Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for EECCA Countries.

(g) Other cross-sectoral activities (5.10 p.m. – 5.40 p.m.)

(i) The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

25. The secretariat will briefly inform the Committee about the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment to be held in 2008 (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/3–EUR/07/5068055/3).

26. The Committee may wish to discuss how to attract high-level participation and enhance the political impetus and impacts of the process on transport, health and environment.

(ii) Education for sustainable development

27. The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the second meeting of the Steering Committee on Environment for Sustainable Development (ECE/CEP/AC.13/2006/3), held in Geneva on 4–5 December 2006.

28. The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

(iii) Environment and health

29. The Committee will be informed about preparations for the Intergovernmental Midterm Review on environment and health, to be held on 13–15 June 2007 in Vienna, including its agenda and possible outcome. The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

30. The Committee is expected to elect five members to represent the environment sector on the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) for a period of two and half years (i.e. until the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2009). Currently the following delegates from the environment sector are represented on the EEHC: Mr. Tahler (Austria), Ms. Kauppi (Finland), Mr. Lomtadze (Georgia), Mr. Clini (Italy) and Mr. Spasojevich (Serbia).

Item 5: Any other business (5.40 p.m. – 5.50 p.m.)

31. Delegations may wish to raise any other points relevant to the meeting.

Item 6: Election of officers for the fifteenth session and closing of the fourteenth session (5.50 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

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

33. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat will summarize the Committee's conclusions and decisions for the report of the fourteenth session for circulation to the member countries.
