



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/3  
3 April 2007

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

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

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 30 May – 1 June 2007

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”<sup>1, 2</sup>**

**Introduction**

Following the request from the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials preparing the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (WGSO) and the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee (ECE/CEP/AC.11/ 2006/9 and ECE/CEP/AC.11/EXECOM/2006/3), the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson has developed a draft agenda for the Conference. The first draft of the agenda was considered by the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee (14–15 February 2007). The revised draft reflects the guidance by the Committee and is hereby submitted to the WGSO for approval.

---

<sup>1</sup> To be held at the Sava Center, Belgrade, beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 October 2007.

<sup>2</sup> This document was submitted on the above date because of the need for consultations with member States.

To facilitate the discussions, the revised outline of the Belgrade agenda appears in the annex of this document.

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda.
2. Assessment and implementation:
  - (a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment;
  - (b) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews.
3. Education for sustainable development.
4. Biodiversity.
5. Capacity-building:
  - (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development;
  - (b) South-East European perspectives.
6. Partnerships:
  - (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness and finance;
  - (b) Partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policy.
7. The future of the process.
8. Closure of the Conference.

## II. ANNOTATIONS

### Wednesday, 10 October 2007

#### **Item 1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda**

*Plenary session, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.*

1. A high-level representative of Serbia will open the Conference. The Conference will adopt its provisional agenda.

Category I document

Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Compilation of summaries of documents for the Belgrade Conference  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

**Item 2. Assessment and implementation**

2. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes).

**(a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment**

*Plenary session, 10 a.m. – 12 noon*

3. This session will set the scene for the Conference. The current state of Europe's environment, the key trends and the main areas of achievements and concern will be identified in a presentation by the European Environment Agency (EEA) of its fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment (Belgrade assessment) (up to 15 minutes).

4. Following the presentation the floor will be opened for discussion<sup>3</sup> (up to 3 minutes per intervention) of the main findings of the Belgrade report and the role of monitoring and assessment in environmental policymaking.

5. The Conference may decide on the preparation of the next pan-European assessment and endorse the recommendations and guidelines submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents

Europe's environment: the fourth assessment, and its executive summary  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Making monitoring and assessment effective Tools in environmental policy  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

- Recommendations for the application of environmental indicators and the preparation of indicators-based environment assessment reports  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/.../Add.1)

- Guidelines for strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/.../Add.2)

Category II documents

Environmental indicators and indicator-based assessment reports  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

The state of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

---

<sup>3</sup> The list of speakers will be opened closer to the Conference date. However, member States are welcome to already inform the secretariat of their interest in delivering key speeches in accordance with the draft agenda for the Conference.

Monitoring what matters: tailoring water, sanitation and environmental sustainability targets and indicators to Europe and Central Asia region conditions  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**(b) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

*Plenary session, 12 noon – 1 p.m.*

6. The session will open with a keynote address on MEAs by a minister, followed by a keynote address on EPRs by another minister (up to 10 minutes per keynote address).
7. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion of both issues (up to 3 minutes per intervention).
8. The Conference will be expected to endorse the recommendations contained in the two documents discussed.

Category I documents

Implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Critical issues in implementation of environmental policies highlighted by the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews Programme (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Category II documents

Steps towards ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Progress in the ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the South-East European region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Progress in the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**PARALLEL PROCESSES**

**Item 3. Education for sustainable development**

*Plenary session, 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.*

9. This session (on “Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward”) will be a joint session of environment and education ministers from countries that adopted the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Vilnius (March 2005) and other interested member States. The session will be chaired by the country leading the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD.
10. The session will open with a welcome address by the Minister of Education of Serbia (up to 5 minutes) followed by introductory remarks by the Chairperson (up to 5 minutes). Three keynote addresses will be presented, one by an education minister, another by an environment

minister and the third by a representative of UNESCO (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD will be presented (up to 10 minutes).

11. Delegates will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention). They will be expected to discuss the main concerns relating to the implementation of ESD in phases II and III with a focus on achievements, challenges and future steps for reaching the six objectives of the UNECE Strategy.
12. Ministers may wish to decide on the strategic direction for the continuation of the process after the Conference and adopt a statement on ESD.

Category I documents

Joint statement on ESD by ministers of education and of the environment  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Category II documents

Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward: first report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Good practices in education for sustainable development in the UNECE region  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**Item 4. Biodiversity**

*Roundtable, 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.*

13. This session will be held as a roundtable of ministers participating in the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Strategy (PEBLDS) process and NGOs.
14. The roundtable will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes). The roundtable will be organized around keynote presentations on crucial themes of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity. The lessons learned from the successful implementation of regional, subregional, national and local activities will be shared by stakeholders, including national, regional and local governments, environmental NGOs and networks, farmers, landowners and private forest organizations.
15. The roundtable will result in recommendations to support the follow-up of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity and delivery of the 2010 target by participating countries.

Category I documents

Belgrade Statement on Biodiversity (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Category II documents

Report on the status of implementation of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity: achievements, challenges and future action to reach the 2010 pan-European biodiversity target (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

The Pan-European Ecological Network: taking stock (BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Biodiversity for Europe now! – European ECO-Forum's recommendations for pan-European cooperation (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Assessment of important biodiversity issues in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Mainstreaming of environment into agriculture and forestry policies and operation (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

### **Thursday, 11 October 2007**

#### **Item 5. Capacity-building**

- (a) **Progress and perspectives in implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy<sup>4</sup> and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development**  
*Plenary session and panel discussion, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.*

16. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by the presentation by the co-Chair of the EAP Task Force of the report assessing progress in implementing the EECCA Strategy (up to 10 minutes).

17. Following the presentation of the report, a panel<sup>5</sup> will discuss its key findings (up to 5 minutes per panellist). Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention) assessing EECCA countries' progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy and identifying future challenges.

18. The Conference will be expected to decide on the findings of the assessment and the way forward to address the key environmental challenges facing EECCA countries.

19. The Conference may also endorse the Guiding Principles of Effective Environmental Permitting Systems and welcome the Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

20. The report on the implementation of the Central Asia Initiative on Sustainable Development will be presented by a minister from one of the countries of Central Asia. The Conference may wish to comment on the proposals for follow-up.

#### Category I documents

Progress in environmental management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and its executive summary (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Guiding principles of effective environmental permitting systems (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

---

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Strategic Framework (ECE/CEP/105/Rev.1).

<sup>5</sup> It is proposed that the panel be composed of three or four ministers from the EECCA subregion and be moderated by an eminent person from the same subregion.

Initiative on strategic environmental assessment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development: progress and prospects  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Category II documents

Progress report on partnerships (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Assessment of reform of environmental compliance assurance systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Financing the water supply and sanitation sector in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

EU Water Initiative – Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Regional water supply and sanitation association for Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Strengthening environmental governance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia through Local Environmental Action Programmes  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**(b) South-East European perspectives**

*Plenary session, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

21. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes) followed by keynote addresses by ministers from the SEE countries on the selected priority issues for this subregion.
22. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).
23. The Conference will be expected to take decisions as proposed in the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents

Belgrade Initiative: enhancing regional SEE cooperation in the field of climate change – recommendations on the use of Regional Climate Change Framework Action in the SEE region and establishment of a subregional Climate Centre  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Strategy/framework/action plan for transboundary water cooperation in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Provided that the countries concerned manage to negotiate the strategy/framework/action plan in due time for the Conference.

Category II documents

Acceptance and implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Municipal environmental investments in South-Eastern Europe, 2001–2005 (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Towards a healthy and productive Adriatic ecosystem (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Environmental policy in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Protection and sustainable development of the SEE mountain areas (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**Item 6. Partnerships**

24. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by two consecutive roundtable discussions as described hereunder.

25. The Conference will be expected to take appropriate decisions as proposed in relevant category I documents submitted under this agenda item.

**(a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness and finance**  
*Roundtable, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.*

26. The roundtable will open with the UNECE presentation of the key findings on Environmental Policy and International Competitiveness in a Globalizing World: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region (up to 10 minutes) followed by keynote addresses by ministers and by high-level representatives from the private sector, with a focus on integration of environmental policy concerns into national economic development strategies; on institutional arrangements for continuous dialogue among major stakeholders and the planning and implementation of effective environmental policies and successful policy integration; and on mobilizing financing for environmental priorities and on participating in the Energy Efficiency Equity Fund (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, a roundtable discussion will take place (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

Category I documents

Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Mobilizing finance for environmental priorities: recommendations for the future<sup>7</sup> (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Public-sector participation in the Energy Efficiency Equity Fund (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

---

<sup>7</sup> The recommendations will also cover the SEE subregion.



Category II documents

Project Preparation Committee report to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Belgrade (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Trends in environmental finance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Environmental financing trends in South-Eastern Europe, 2001–2005 (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Recommendations on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Mainstreaming environment for sustainable economic development (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**(b) Partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policy**

*Roundtable, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.*

27. The roundtable<sup>8</sup> will open with keynote addresses by ministers and by high-level representatives from the private sector (up to 5 minutes per keynote address), with a focus on the issues tackled in the category I documents submitted for this agenda sub-item. Thereafter, a roundtable discussion will take place (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

Category I documents

Partnerships with the private sector (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Public-private partnership for reduced air pollution from vehicles through lead-free and low-sulphur fuels (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Sustainable consumption and production (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Environment and Security Partnership (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Cooperation and frameworks for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Executive summary of the report “Delivering energy efficiency for competitive energy markets and a cleaner environment” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Statement on energy efficiency and the environment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

Category II documents

Delivering energy efficiency for competitive energy markets and a cleaner environment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation in selected transition economies (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe,

---

<sup>8</sup> It is proposed to organize the roundtable discussion with the participation of high-level policy- and decision makers, representatives of international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe  
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/...)

**Friday, 12 October 2007**

**Item 7. The future of the process**

*Plenary session, 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.*

28. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes). Under this agenda item the Conference will be expected to discuss the draft Ministerial Declaration, including the future of the “Environment for Europe” process.<sup>9</sup>

29. The ministers may wish to consider and adopt a Ministerial Declaration.

Category I document

Draft ministerial declaration (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

**Item 8. Closure of the Conference**

*Plenary session, 12.30 p.m. - 1 p.m.*

30. The Chairperson of the Conference will summarize the results of the Conference and circulate them in the form of a Chairperson’s summary.

31. This Conference will close at 1 p.m. on 12 October 2007.

Category I document

Chairperson’s summary (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/...)

---

<sup>9</sup> Proposed documents that are relevant to the future of the EfE process will be taken into account as appropriate in preparing the Ministerial Declaration.

**Annex**

**OUTLINE OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE**

<b>“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE”</b>					
<b>Evaluation and Implementation</b>		<b>Capacity-Building and Partnerships</b>		<b>The Way Forward</b>	
<b>Day 1 (Wednesday, 10 October 2007)</b>		<b>Day 2 (Thursday, 11 October 2007)</b>		<b>Day 3 (Friday, 12 October 2007)</b>	
<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item/sub-item/topic</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item/sub-item/topic</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item/sub-item/topic</i>
9 a.m.– 10 a.m.	<b>Official opening of the Conference</b> (1 h) <i>(plenary session)</i>	9 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<b>Capacity-building</b> (4 h) (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of EECCA Strategy and of the Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development (2 h) <i>(plenary session and panel discussion)</i> (b) SEE perspectives (2 h) <i>(plenary session)</i>	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<b>The future of the EfE process</b> (2.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> <i>Ministerial Declaration<sup>2</sup> (including the future of the process)</i>
10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<b>Assessment and implementation</b> (3 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> (a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment <sup>1</sup> (2 h) (b) Implementation of MEAs and findings of ECE EPRs (1 h)				<b>Closure of the Conference</b> (0.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> <i>Chairperson’s Summary<sup>3</sup></i>
<b>Lunch</b> 1 p.m.– 2.30 p.m.		<b>Lunch</b> 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.		<b>Lunch</b> 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.	
2.30 p.m.– 6.30 p.m.	<b>PARALLEL PROCESSES</b> <b>Education for sustainable development<sup>4</sup></b> (2 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> <b>Biodiversity<sup>5</sup></b> (2 h) <i>(roundtable of NGOs and ministers)</i>	3 p.m.– 7 p.m.	<b>Partnerships</b> (4 h) <i>(two consecutive roundtables)</i> (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness and finance <sup>6</sup> (2 h) (b) Partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policy <sup>7</sup> (2 h)		

\*\*\*\*\*

<sup>1</sup> Including transboundary waters assessment in the UNECE region.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to adoption.

<sup>3</sup> For information.

<sup>4</sup> A joint session of environment and education ministers from member States that adopted the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Vilnius (March 2005), and other interested member States.

<sup>5</sup> A roundtable of NGOs and ministers from interested member States, prepared jointly by the Council of PEBLDS and the European ECO-Forum.

<sup>6</sup> Including the issue of mobilizing finances for environmental priorities and public-sector participation in the energy efficiency equity fund.

<sup>7</sup> Including the issues of partnerships with the private sector, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, environment and security and mountains.