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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Fifteenth session  
Geneva, 21–23 April 2008

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH SESSION\***

To be held in the Palais des Nations  
starting on Monday, 21 April 2008, at 10 a.m.\*\*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Review of the programme of work: Environmental Performance Reviews
  - (a) Environmental Performance Review of Kazakhstan

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\* This document is submitted on the above date due to the consultations with the CEP Bureau on 30 January 2008.

\*\* 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 available on the CEP website (<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 7 April 2008* – either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or e-mail ([evelina.rioukhina@unece.org](mailto:evelina.rioukhina@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva 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.

- (b) Revision of peer reviews procedure
- (c) Activities under the programme
- 4. Outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”: the “Environment for Europe” process – assessment and the way forward
- 5. Sustainable development in the UNECE region
- 6. Review of the programme of work: Environmental monitoring, building capacity and partnerships, cross-sectoral activities
  - (a) Environmental monitoring
  - (b) Building capacities and partnerships
    - (i) The implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements
    - (ii) Environment and Security Initiative
  - (c) Cross-sectoral activities
    - (i) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
    - (ii) Education for sustainable development
    - (iii) Environment and health
- 7. Programme of work 2008–2009
- 8. Reporting on programme performance
- 9. Any other business
- 10. Closing of the fifteenth session

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 21 April 2008

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10.00– 10.30 a.m.)**

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is expected to adopt the agenda for its fifteenth session (ECE/CEP/147).

### **Item 2: Election of officers (10.30 – 11.00 a.m.)**

The Committee is expected to elect a Chairperson and other members of the Bureau.

### **Item 3: Review of the programme of work: Environmental Performance Reviews**

**(11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)**

**(a) Environmental Performance Review of Kazakhstan**

The Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Kazakhstan (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/countriesreviewed.htm>). The Committee is expected to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report revised by the Expert Group at their meeting on 17 and 18 April 2008.

**(b) Revision of peer reviews procedure**

Following the Committee's suggestion at its thirteenth session to allocate more time to the peer reviews discussions at its annual session, delegations will be invited to discuss and decide on the basis of a paper, agreed upon by the CEP Bureau, (ECE/CEP/2008/2), on how to carry out peer reviews in the future. According to the outcome of the discussion held on the modification of the peer review procedure, the terms of reference of the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Expert Group, will be revised including membership for the next biennium (2008–2010) (ECE/CEP/2008/2, annex). The Committee will be invited to agree on the Terms of Reference and the renewed membership of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and to submit it to UNECE Executive Committee for endorsement.

**(c) Activities under the programme**

The secretariat will inform the Committee about the publication of "Critical Issues in Implementation of Environmental Policies (ECE/CEP/136) and submitted as category I document at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Belgrade in October 2007 (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/13). The Committee will be invited to discuss how best to encourage reviewed countries to implement the recommendations contained in this document. The Committee will also be informed on the launch events of the EPRs of Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine, and of other upcoming activities under the EPR programme.

**Item 4: Outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe": the "Environment for Europe" process – assessment and the way forward (3.00 – 6 p.m.)**

The UNECE member States decided at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference in the Ministerial Declaration to undertake a reform of the "Environment for Europe" (EfE) process to ensure that it remained relevant and valuable and to strengthen its effectiveness. The Committee will be invited to discuss options for the reform based on a paper (ECE/CEP/2008/4) containing a compilation of member States' responses to a questionnaire prepared by the CEP Bureau. The Committee will be invited to provide further guidance on the reform process and its timeframe.

Tuesday, 22 April 2008

**Item 4 (continued): Outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”: the “Environment for Europe” process – assessment and the way forward (10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)**

**Item 5: Sustainable development in the UNECE region (3.00 – 3.30 p.m.)**

The secretariat will inform the Committee about the outcome (ECE/AC.25/2008/2) of the third Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development (28 and 29 January 2008, Geneva), which addressed agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

**Item 6: Review of the programme of work: Environmental monitoring, building capacity and partnerships, cross-sectoral activities**

**(a) Environmental monitoring (3.30 – 5.00 p.m.)**

The Committee will be invited to consider the results of the eighth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2007/2), the report on the implementation of the Working Group’s mandate (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2007/3 and Add.1) and the Working Group’s recommendation that it be converted into a Working Party. The Committee will also be invited to discuss future work on environmental monitoring and assessment in the light of the Belgrade Ministerial Conference’s invitation to UNECE to continue this activity. The Committee may agree on the draft terms of reference of its working body on environmental monitoring and assessment for its approval, and thereafter, to submit it to the UNECE Executive Committee for endorsement. A proposal by the CEP Bureau will be circulated (ECE/CEP/2008/6).

**(b) Building capacity and partnership (5.00– 6 p.m.)**

**(i) The implementation of UNECE multilateral agreements**

The secretariats of the five UNECE environmental conventions will briefly inform the CEP about their activities related to the implementation of the Conventions and their protocols, bearing in mind the recommendations reflected in the report on the implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/12) discussed in Belgrade at the Sixth Ministerial Conference. The Committee may wish to take note of the activities undertaken.

**(ii) Environment and Security Initiative**

The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the UNECE. The Initiative builds on the combined strengths and

field presence of the lead organizations to perform three key functions: (a) assessment and monitoring of environment and security linkages; (b) capacity-building and institutional development; and (c) integration of environmental and security concerns and priorities in international and national policymaking. The secretariat will provide information on the ongoing contributions of UNECE to the Initiative, which is mainly aimed at strengthening the implementation of the UNECE regional environmental conventions (informal notice 1). The Committee may wish to provide comments on actions taken.

Wednesday, 23 April 2008

**(c) Cross-sectoral activities (9.30 – 10.15 a.m.)**

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

The secretariat will briefly inform the Committee about the discussions concerning the preparations for the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment to be held in 2008 (ECE/AC.21/2008/2). The Committee may wish to discuss how to attract high-level participation and to enhance the political impetus and impacts of the process on Transport, Health and Environment.

(ii) Education for sustainable development

The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the third meeting of the Steering Committee (CEP/AC.13/2008/2), to be held on 6 and 7 March 2008. The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

(iii) Environment and Health

The Committee will be informed about preparations for the High-level Meeting on Environment and Health to be held in Italy in 2009, including its agenda and possible outcome. The Committee may wish to take note of this information.

**Item 7: Programme of work 2008–2009 (10.15 – 11.00 a.m.)**

The CEP Bureau met on 30 January 2008 (ECE/CEP/2008/3). The Committee may wish to decide on its programme of work for 2008–2009 (ECE/CEP/2008/1), taking into account the discussion held on the ongoing programme elements.

**Item 8: Reporting on programme performance (11.00 – 11.45 a.m.)**

The Committee was requested to conduct biannual evaluations related to their subprogrammes' performance as decided by the Commission. To this end, it will review, for each cluster of activities, the draft expected accomplishments together with the related indicators of achievement as reflected in document ECE/CEP/2008/5. The Committee will be informed about the reporting related to the 2006/2007 budget year for each accomplishment, on the results achieved and lessons learned, including areas needing adjustment. The Committee will also discuss, on the

basis of information received in advance, the regular and extrabudgetary resources for all activities relating to the environment. Donor countries will be invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds, and agree on the updated criteria for financial assistance (informal notice 2).

**Item 9: Any other business (11.45 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.)**

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

**Item 10: Closing of the fifteenth session (12.00 – 12.30 p.m.)**

The Committee is expected to elect a Chairperson and other members of its Bureau. The Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Committee's conclusions and decisions. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat will finalize the report of the fifteenth session for circulation to the member countries. For advance copies, please visit the CEP website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/>).

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