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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 29 August 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

**DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK AT THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

Following the request from the third and fourth meetings of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) for preparing the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (ECE/CEP/AC.11/ 2006/9 and ECE/CEP/AC.11/ 2007/2) and the fourth and fifth meetings of the Executive Committee (ECE/CEP/AC.11/EXECOM/2006/3 and ECE/CEP/AC.11/EXECOM/2007/1), the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, has developed the annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/1) and the draft organization of work at the Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2007/22).

This document provides a draft organization of work at the Conference compiled on the basis of the interests expressed by the Governments, as well as the inputs by partners in the “Environment for Europe” process submitted thus far to the secretariat. In developing this document, the secretariat has tried to take into account, as much as possible, the expressions of interest received and, at the same time, to ensure a well-balanced and broad representation of the UNECE region based on geographical coverage as well as on Governments’ leadership in certain

activities.

The document is hereby submitted to the WGSO for consideration and further identification of one chairperson for Item 6 (b), as well as of several participants in the panel and roundtable discussions.

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Chair of the Conference: Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

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

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia

Welcoming address by Mr. Boris Tadic, President of Serbia, opening the Conference (up to 10 minutes)

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 7 minutes)

Keynote addresses (up to 7 minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of UNECE
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Opening event by the host country

10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Item 2. Assessment and implementation

(a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

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)

Keynote addresses (up to 7 minutes per keynote address):

- The Minister of Environment of Finland
- Mr. Leonty Khoruzhik, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, on the development of Environmental Monitoring System in Belarus

Discussion¹ (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

¹ The list of speakers for the interventions at the Conference will be opened as of 3 September 2007.

11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. **(b) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Raimonds Vejonis, Minister of Environmental Protection of Latvia

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Keynote addresses on MEAs (up to 7 minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Dzhevdet Chakarov, Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria
- Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment of Italy
- a minister from one of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (tbd²)

Keynote addresses on EPRs (up to 7 minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. David Tkeshelashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia
- Ms. Rut Bízková, Deputy Minister of the Environment of Czech Republic
- Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova

Discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

SPECIAL SESSIONS

2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. **Item 3. Joint session on education for sustainable development³**

Plenary session

Chair: Ms. Marietta Giannakou, Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs of Greece

Welcome address by Mr. Zoran Loncar, Minister of Education of Serbia (up to 5 minutes)

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Keynote addresses (up to 5 minutes per keynote address):

- The Minister of Education of Canada (tbc⁴)

² To be determined.

³ A joint session of environment and education ministers from member States that adopted the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Vilnius (March 2005), and other interested member States.

⁴ To be confirmed.

- Mr. Nurlan Iskakov, Minister of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan
- A high-level representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Presentation by Ms. Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands of the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (up to 10 minutes)

Discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Adoption of the Draft Statement on education for sustainable development

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. **Item 4. Biodiversity**⁵

Roundtable

Chair: The roundtable will be co-chaired by:

- Ms. Helen Oddveig Bjornoy, the Minister of Environment of Norway (tbc), as Chair of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)
- Mr. Rob Wolters, Executive Director, European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), European ECO-Forum

Introductory remarks by the two Chairs on the Kiev Resolution and pan-European efforts to halt the biodiversity loss; and on achievements and challenges for the pan-European region, respectively (up to 5 minutes each)

Main keynote address: by Mr. Nicolas Stern, Head of Government Economic Service, United Kingdom, on the challenges of the twenty-first century: conserving nature under a changing global climate (up to 7 minutes)

Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, has expressed her interest in delivering a keynote address

Roundtable discussion on “Managing biodiversity for human well-being in the twenty-first century”, including on the Kiev commitments related to protected areas and ecological networks and the identification of High Nature Value farmland, on protected areas and ecological networks in pan-Europe, and on the identification of High Nature Value farmland in pan-Europe (up to 3 minutes per keynote address):

⁵ A roundtable of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and ministers from interested member States, prepared jointly by the Council of Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the European ECO-Forum.

- Mr. David Tkeshelashvili, the Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia (tbc)
- Mr. Nurlan Iskakov, Minister of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan (tbc)
- Mr. Nikolay Sobolev, Biodiversity Conservation Center, the Russian Federation
- Ms. Liliana Jura, BIOTICA Ecological Society, Moldova

Roundtable discussion on “Society in nature, nature in society” (up to 3 minutes per keynote address):

- Ms. Julia Marton-Lefevre, Director General of IUCN (World Conservation Union) (tbc), on biodiversity conservation as a multi-stakeholder issues
- Ms. Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Housing, Special Planning and Environment of the Netherlands, on linking biodiversity and climate change
- Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, on economic valuation, ecosystem services and financing biodiversity
- Mr. Francisco Nunes Correia, Minister of Environment of Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), on business and biodiversity
- Mr. Jan Szysko, Minister of the Environment of Poland
- The Minister of Environment of Finland
- Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia
- Mr. Frank Petter, Mayor of Woudrichem, the Netherlands (tbc)
- Mr. Thierry de l’Escaille, Secretary General, European Landowners’ Organisation (tbc)
- Ms. Vera Coelho, GEOTA⁶, Portugal
- Ms. Milka Gvozdenovic, Young Researchers of Serbia, Serbia
- Mr. Oleg Tsaruk, Caucasus Office of WWF Russia (tbc)
- Mr. Zac Goldsmith, Vice-Chairman of the Policy Group on Quality of Life Challenges (tbc)
- Mr. Rustam Murzakhanov, youth representative, Uzbekistan

Roundtable discussion on “Looking towards the future” (up to 5 minutes per keynote address)

- Mr. László Sólyom, President of Hungary (tbc)
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP (tbc)

⁶ Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente.

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Adoption of the Draft Statement on Biodiversity

Concluding remarks by one of the Chairs (up to 5 minutes)

Thursday, 11 October 2007

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Item 5. Capacity-building

(a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy⁷ and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development

Plenary session and panel discussion⁸

Chair: Mr. David Tkeshelashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Keynote address: Mr. Lorents Lorentsen, Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (up to 5 minutes)

Presentation by the Co-Chair of the OECD Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe of the report assessing progress in implementing the EECCA Strategy (up to 10 minutes)

Panel discussion on the key findings of the report (up to 5 minutes per panelist)

Panelists:

- tbd
- tbd
- tbd

Discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Presentation by Mr. Arstanbek Davletkeldiev, Director of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan of the report on the implementation of the Central Asia Initiative on Sustainable Development (up to 10 minutes)

Discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

⁷ Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Strategic Framework (ECE/CEP/105/Rev.1).

⁸ It is proposed that the panel be composed of three or four ministers from the EECCA subregion.

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**(b) South-East European perspectives***Plenary session***Chair:** Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia**Introductory remarks** by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)**Keynote addresses** (up to 7 minutes per keynote address):

- The Chair, on the Belgrade Initiative: enhancing regional cooperation in the field of climate change
- Mr. Slobodan Puhac, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Predrag Nenezic, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Protection of Montenegro
- The Head of Delegation of Croatia
- Mr. Dzelil Bajrami, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment of Italy

Discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention)**Concluding remarks** by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)3 p.m. – 5 p.m.**Item 6. Partnerships****(a) Environmental policy, international competitiveness and finance: can we afford a better environment?***Roundtable⁹***Chair:** Mr. Bruno Oberle, State Secretary, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland**Introductory remarks** by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)**Presentation** by UNECE 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)**Roundtable discussion** on the integration of environmental policy concerns into national economic development strategies, on institutional dialogue among major stakeholders, and on the planning and implementation of effective environmental policies and successful policy integration (up to 5 minutes per keynote address):

- Mr. Arunas Kundortas, Minister of Environment of Lithuania

⁹ 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.

- Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova
- The Vice-President of the World Bank, on integration of environmental considerations in economic development
- A high-level representative of the private sector (tbd)
- A high-level representative of NGOs (tbd)

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Roundtable discussion on environmental finance (up to 5 minutes per keynote address):

- The Minister of the Environment of Finland
- UNECE, on the Energy Efficiency Equity Fund
- Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Vice-President for Environment, Procurement and Administration of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), on promoting sustainability by investing in environmental and social improvements

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

(b) Partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policy

Roundtable

Chair: tbd

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Roundtable discussion with the participation of ministers and of high-level representatives from the private sector (up to 5 minutes per keynote address):

- Ms. Ros Tennyson, the Partnering Initiative Director, Director, International Business Leaders Forum (tbc)
- Ms. Rut Bízková, Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic
- Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment of Italy
- Ms. Åsa-Brit Karlsson, State Secretary of the Environment of Sweden
- A minister from one of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (tbd)

- Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), on key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management
- Ms. Marta Bonifert, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE), on public-private partnership for reduced air pollution from vehicles through no-lead and low-sulphur fuels
- The Senior Vice-President of Toyota (tbc)
- A high-level representative of NGOs (tbd)

Interactive discussion with interventions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention)

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Friday, 12 October 2007

10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **Item 7. The future of the process**

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia

Introductory remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

Discussion of the draft Ministerial Declaration, including the future of the “Environment for Europe” process

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

Concluding remarks by the Chair (up to 5 minutes)

12.30 p.m. – 1 p.m. **Item 8. Closure of the Conference**

Plenary session

Chair: Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection of Serbia

Closing remarks by the Chair
