

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE
UN ENVIRONNEMENT POUR L'EUROPE
ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
ЖИВОТНА СРЕДИНА ЗА ЕВРОПУ

BELGRADE, 10-12 October 2007



SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”

BELGRADE, SERBIA
10–12 October 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Sixth Ministerial Conference
“Environment for Europe”
Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE¹

to be held at the Sava Center, Belgrade,
beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 October 2007

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. Joint session on education for sustainable development².
4. Biodiversity³.
5. Capacity-building:
 - (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development;

¹ The present document is submitted on the above date, as it was prepared following the discussion by the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO), held in Geneva on 29 August 2007, in preparation for the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”.

² 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.

³ A roundtable of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and ministers from interested member States of the Council of Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the European ECO-Forum.

- (b) South-East European perspectives.
- 6. Partnerships:
 - (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment?
 - (b) Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes.
- 7. The future of the process.
- 8. Closure of the Conference.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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 I⁴ documents

Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference

(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/1/Rev.1)

Compilation of summaries of documents for action by ministers

(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/5)

Compilation of summaries of background documents (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/6)

Item 2. Assessment and implementation

(a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment

Plenary session, 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

2. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes). 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), followed by keynote addresses by ministers and by high-level representatives (up to 5 minutes per keynote address).
3. Following the keynote addresses, the floor will be opened for discussion⁵ (up to 3 minutes per intervention) of the main findings of the Belgrade report and the role of monitoring and assessment in environmental policymaking.

⁴ Documents for possible action by ministers (signature, endorsement, approval, adoption, discussion) submitted through and endorsed by the WGSO (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/5, section II).

⁵ The list of speakers for interventions will be opened on 3 September 2007.

4. 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/2007/10)

Making monitoring and assessment effective tools in environmental policy
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11)

- *Recommendations to Governments of East European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries for the application of environmental indicators and the preparation of indicator-based environment assessment reports*
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11/Add.1)

- *Guidelines for strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises* (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11/Add.2)

Category II⁶ documents

Environmental indicators and indicator-based assessment reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/6)

Assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/1)

Monitoring what matters: tailoring millennium targets and indicators of environmental sustainability to local conditions in Europe and Central Asia
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/7)

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

Plenary session, 11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

5. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson, followed by keynote addresses on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and on Environmental Performance Reviews by ministers (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion of both issues (up to 3 minutes per intervention).
6. 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/2007/12)

From intentions to actions: overcoming bottlenecks. Critical issues in implementation of environmental policies highlighted by the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/13 and Add.1)

⁶ Background documents (informational and analytical documents of direct relevance to the Conference agenda) submitted through the WGSO.

Category II documents

Challenges and opportunities of transboundary accidental water pollution, liability and compensation – progress towards ratification of the Civil Liability Protocol (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/2)

Tackling regional, hemispheric and global air pollution: the potential role of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/8)

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Item 3. Joint session on education for sustainable development

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

7. 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 have 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.
8. The session will open with a welcoming address by the Minister of Education of Serbia (up to 5 minutes) followed by introductory remarks by the Chairperson (up to 5 minutes). Keynote addresses will be given by education and environment ministers and by a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (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).
9. 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.
10. Ministers may wish to decide on the strategic direction for the continuation of the process after the Conference and to adopt a statement on ESD.

Category I document

Draft statement on education for sustainable development by the ministers of education and of the environment of the UNECE region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/14)

Category II documents

Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward: report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3 and Add.1)

Good practices in education for sustainable development in the UNECE region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/9)

Item 4. Biodiversity

Roundtable, 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

11. This session will be held as a roundtable of ministers participating in the PEBLDS process and NGOs and will be organized around keynote addresses 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. 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.
12. The roundtable will open with introductory remarks by the two Chairpersons (up to 5 minutes per remark), followed by a special guest keynote address on the challenges of the twenty-first century: conserving nature under a changing global climate (up to 10 minutes) and keynote addresses by two ministers (up to 5 minutes per keynote address).
13. Thereafter, a roundtable discussion on “Managing biodiversity for human well-being in the twenty-first century” will take place (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). A second roundtable discussion on “Society in nature, nature in society” will open with a keynote address by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (up to 5 minutes), followed by the discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).
14. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for interactive discussion from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention).
15. The Conference will be expected to adopt a statement on biodiversity.
16. The session on biodiversity will be closed by the launching of a multi-stakeholder initiative introduced by a keynote address by a minister (up to 5 minutes).

Category I document

Draft Belgrade statement on biodiversity (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/15)

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/10)

The Pan-European Ecological Network: state of the implementation of the network – message to the ministers and policymakers (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/11)

The Pan-European Ecological Network: taking stock (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/12)

Biodiversity for Europe now! – European ECO-Forum’s recommendations for pan-European cooperation (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/13)

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Item 5. Capacity-building

(a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia⁷, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development

Plenary session, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

17. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by the presentation by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) of the report assessing progress in implementing the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (up to 10 minutes), and main keynote addresses by the Co-Chairs of the OECD EAP Task Force (up to 5 minutes per keynote address).

18. Following the main keynote addresses, the Conference will discuss the key findings of the report (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention), assessing the progress made by the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in achieving the objectives of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and identifying future challenges.

19. The Conference will be expected to decide on the findings of the assessment and the way forward to address the key environmental challenges facing the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. 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 (up to 10 minutes). Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention). The Conference may wish to comment on the proposals for follow-up.

Category I documents

Policies for a better environment – progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/16)

Guiding principles of effective environmental permitting systems (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/17)

Initiative on strategic environmental assessment (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/18)

Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development: progress and prospects (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/19)

Category II documents

Progress report on partnerships in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/14)

Progress in modernizing environmental regulation and compliance assurance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/15)

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).

Financing water supply and sanitation in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, including progress in achieving water-related Millennium Development Goals (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/16)

The European Union Water Initiative – Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/17)

Strengthening environmental governance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia through local environmental action programmes (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/18)

(b) South-East European perspectives

Plenary session, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

21. The session will open with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes) and the presentation by the Chairperson on the Belgrade Initiative (up to 10 minutes), followed by a main keynote address by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (up to 7 minutes) and keynote addresses by ministers from the South-East European countries on the selected priority issues for this subregion and by other ministers and high-level officials (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the floor will be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

22. The Conference will be expected to take decisions as proposed in the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I document

Belgrade Initiative: enhancing regional South-East European cooperation in the field of climate change – recommendations on the use of Regional Climate Change Framework Action in the South-East European region and establishment of a subregional Climate Centre (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/20 and Add.1)

Category II documents

Acceptance and implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/19)

Municipal environmental investments in South-Eastern Europe: 2001–2005 (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/20)

Towards a healthy and productive Adriatic ecosystem (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/21)

Environmental policy in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/22)

Protection and sustainable development of mountain areas in South-Eastern Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/23)

Item 6. Partnerships

(a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment?

Roundtable, 3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

23. The roundtable will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by a presentation by the UNECE Executive Secretary 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). The roundtable discussion will focus on integration of environmental policy concerns into national economic development strategies; on institutional arrangements for continuous 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). Thereafter, an interactive discussion from the floor will take place (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

Category I document

Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/21)

Category II documents

Integrating environment in key economic sectors in Europe and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/28)

Integrating environment into agriculture and forestry: progress and prospects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/32)

(b) Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes

Plenary session and roundtable, 4.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

24. The session will open with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes). The session will have two consecutive clusters: the first focusing on environmental finance; the second focusing on partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes.

25. The first cluster (plenary discussion) will open with a main keynote address by the Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (up to 10 minutes) followed by keynote addresses by ministers and high-level officials (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, an interactive discussion from the floor will take place (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

26. The second cluster (roundtable discussion) 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 (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/24 - 28). Thereafter, an interactive discussion from the floor will take place (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

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

Category I documents

Mobilizing finance for environmental priorities: recommendations for the future
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/22) *

Public-sector participation in the Energy Efficiency Equity Fund
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/23) *

Public-private partnership for reduced air pollution from vehicles through lead-free and low-sulphur fuels (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/24)

Sustainable consumption and production (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/25)

Environment and security partnerships: conflicts and the environment
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/26)

Cooperation and frameworks for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in Europe (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/27)

*Delivering energy efficiency: developments and priorities*⁸
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/28)

Category II documents

Project Preparation Committee report to the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/24) *

Trends in environmental finance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/25) *

Environmental financing trends in South-Eastern Europe: 2001–2005
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/26) *

Recommendations on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/27) *

Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation in selected transition economies (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/4) *

Policy developments and challenges in delivering energy efficiency
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/29)

Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/30)

Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe
(ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/31)

Facilitating development of coal mine methane projects in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/5)

* Moved from Item 6(a) to 6(b) following decision by the WGSO at its fifth meeting (Geneva, 29 August 2007).

⁸ Pending approval by the WGSO.

Friday, 12 October 2007

Item 7. The future of the process

Plenary session, 9.30 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 future of the “Environment for Europe” process and the draft Ministerial Declaration. A keynote address will be given by the Minister of Environment of Portugal on behalf of the European Union (up to 5 minutes), followed by an interactive discussion from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

29. The ministers may wish to consider and adopt a Ministerial Declaration following introductory remarks on the Ministerial Declaration by the Chairperson (up to 5 minutes).

Category I documents

Draft Ministerial Declaration (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/L.1)

The future of the “Environment for Europe” process (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/7)

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

Category I document

Chairperson’s Summary (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/9)

Annex

OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA OF THE BELGRADE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE”					
Evaluation and Implementation		Capacity-building and Partnerships		The Way Forward	
Day 1 (Wednesday, 10 October 2007)		Day 2 (Thursday, 11 October 2007)		Day 3 (Friday, 12 October 2007)	
<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.	1. Official opening of the Conference (1 h) <i>(plenary session)</i>	9 a.m.– 1 p.m.	5. Capacity-building (4 h) (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development (2 h) <i>(plenary session and panel discussion)</i> (b) South-East European perspectives (2 h) <i>(plenary session)</i>	9.30a.m. – 1p..m.	7. The future of the EfE process (2.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> Ministerial Declaration ¹⁰ and the future of the EfE process
10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	2. Assessment and implementation (3 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> (a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment ⁹ (1.5 h) (b) Implementation of MEAs and findings of UNECE EPRs (1.5 h)				8. Closure of the Conference (0.5 h) <i>(plenary session)</i> Chairperson’s Summary ¹¹
1 p.m.– 2:30 p.m.	Lunchtime	1 p.m.– 3 p.m.	Lunchtime	1 p.m.– 3 p.m.	Lunchtime
2:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.	SPECIAL SESSIONS 3. Joint session on education for sustainable development ¹² (2h) <i>(plenary session)</i> 4. Biodiversity ¹³ (2 h) <i>(roundtable of NGOs and ministers)</i>	3 p.m.– 7 p.m.	6. Partnerships (4 h) <i>(two consecutive roundtables)</i> (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment? (1.5h) (b) Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes ¹⁴ (2.5 h)		

⁹ Including transboundary waters assessment in the UNECE region.

¹⁰ Subject to adoption.

¹¹ For information.

¹² 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.

¹³ A roundtable of NGOs and ministers from interested member States of the Council of PEBLDS and the European ECO-Forum.

¹⁴ Including the issues of mobilizing finances for environmental priorities and public-sector participation in the energy efficiency equity fund, as well as public-private partnerships, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, environment and security, and mountains.