

**Economic and Social
Council**Distr.
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPEFifty-ninth session
(24-26 February 2004)**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION**To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 February 2004

1. Adoption of the Agenda

HIGH LEVEL POLICY SEGMENT

2. Economic developments in the UNECE region
3. Policies to stimulate competitiveness and growth
4. The UNECE Reform

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site (<http://www.unece.org/>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (ruby.quirighetti@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (Annual Session of the Commission – Tel: +41 22 917 5976; Spring Seminar – Tel +41 22 917 5773).

GENERAL SEGMENT

5. The UNECE's cooperation with OSCE
6. The work of the UNECE: achievements, constraints and perspectives
7. Preparations for, and follow-up to, global and regional conferences
8. Overview of UNECE technical cooperation activities
9. Report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW)
10. Election of Officers
11. Adoption of the Report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

DATE/TIME	AGENDA ITEM	INTRODUCTION	EXPLANATORY NOTES	DOCUMENTATION	SIDE EVENTS
<u>Tuesday,</u> <u>24 February</u> <u>am</u>	<u>Item 1:</u> Adoption of the Agenda	Chairperson of the Commission	The adoption of the agenda will be followed by opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.	E/ECE/1409	
<u>POLICY SEGMENT</u>					
<u>Tuesday,</u> <u>24 February</u> <u>am</u>	<u>Item 2:</u> Economic developments in the UNECE region	Executive Secretary	Under this item the major conclusions of the first issue of the Economic Survey of Europe, 2004 will be presented and discussed.	Economic Survey of Europe	
<u>Tuesday,</u> <u>24 February</u> <u>am/pm</u>	<u>Item: 3</u> Policies to stimulate competitiveness and growth		Under this item two round-table discussions will be organized, both with the participation of government representatives. It is proposed that the first provide for an exchange of experiences on best practices and national policies that have proved successful in increasing competitiveness and growth. The second would focus on regional initiatives and cooperation in the UNECE region as well as the role of the UNCE in stimulating competitiveness. A synthesis of the debate containing “lessons learned” would subsequently be prepared and circulated by the secretariat to UNECE member States.	Conference Room Paper	6 p.m. Launching of the UNIHP Book on Unity and Diversity of Development Ideas: Perspectives from the UN Regional Commissions ¹ 6.30 p.m. Reception for UNECE Delegates

¹ Immediately following the meeting’s adjournment, and in the same meeting room, a co-director of the United Nations Intellectual History Project (UNIHP) and former Executive Secretary of the UNECE will officially launch the book: “Unity and Diversity of Development Ideas: Perspectives from the UN Regional Commissions.” The book, which will also be launched at the other four regional commissions, is part of a series of books being prepared in the context of UNIHP. It examines how development ideas were created, developed, questioned and implemented within the world’s main regions, as seen through the lens of the United Nations regional commissions.

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			<p>To ensure an interactive debate, and in keeping with ongoing efforts to revitalize the sessions of the Commission, all participants are encouraged to limit themselves to concrete observations about successful policies and pitfalls to avoid. More general statements can be circulated.</p>		
<p><u>Wednesday,</u> <u>25 February</u> <u>am</u></p>	<p><u>Item 4:</u> The UNECE Reform</p>	<p>Executive Secretary</p>	<p>Under this item, the Commission will be updated on developments since the fifty-eighth Annual Session and will discuss proposals contained in the report of the Executive Secretary.</p>	<p>E/ECE/1411 and Add.1</p>	
	GENERAL SEGMENT				
<p><u>Wednesday,</u> <u>25 February</u> <u>am</u></p>	<p><u>Item 5:</u> The UNECE's cooperation with OSCE</p>	<p>Executive Secretary</p>	<p>The UNECE's cooperation with the OSCE is longstanding, including in the areas of economic analysis and the application of the UNECE conventions on environment and transport to enhance conflict prevention in the region. At the request of the OSCE, the UNECE has also been involved in the preparation of the annual review of commitments of OSCE Participating States in the economic dimension (Bonn Document).</p> <p>The Participating States of the OSCE are currently negotiating a new Strategy Document to replace the Bonn Document. It is expected to include recommendations on what could be the future cooperation between the two</p>	<p>E/ECE/1410, supplemented by a conference room paper as appropriate</p>	

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			<p>organizations. (In this connection, documents prepared by the UNECE secretariat as a contribution to the process were circulated to UNECE member States in September 2003).</p> <p>Under this item, the recommendations of the OSCE Participating States, all of which also participate in the work of the UNECE, will be debated. As the meeting of Foreign Ministers on the Strategy Document will take place in December, the background document for this item being prepared by the UNECE secretariat will be supplemented as necessary by a Conference Room Paper to provide updated information prior to the Annual Session.</p>		
<p><u>Wednesday,</u> <u>25 February</u> <u>pm</u></p>	<p><u>Item 6:</u> The work of the UNECE: achievements, constraints and perspectives</p>	<p>Chairperson</p>	<p>Under this item, the Executive Secretary will introduce her report on the work of the UNECE: achievements, constraints, as well as perspectives for the coming year. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies will participate in the debate.</p>	<p>E/ECE/1412 and Add.1</p>	
<p><u>Wednesday,</u> <u>25 February</u> <u>pm</u></p>	<p><u>Item 7:</u> Preparations for, and follow-up to, global and regional conferences</p>	<p>Executive Secretary</p>	<p>The role of the regional commissions in both the preparation for and follow-up to global and regional conferences has been consistently acknowledged by the General Assembly and ECOSOC. The inclusion of this item serves to keep member States updated in a consolidated way on the UNECE's involvement in a number of conferences.</p>	<p>E/ECE/1413</p>	

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			Should there be insufficient time for adequate discussion under this item, member States may wish to take note of the background document and defer debate to the first Ad hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission following the Annual Session.		6 p.m. – 8 p.m. MYRDAL Lecture ²
<u>Thursday,</u> <u>26 February</u> <u>am</u>	<u>Item 8:</u> Overview of UNECE technical cooperation activities	Executive Secretary	Under this item, the Commission will have before it a document outlining the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the secretariat since the fifty-eighth Annual Session. (Information on the strategy for technical cooperation will be provided in the context of agenda item 5: the UNECE reform).	E/ECE/1414	
<u>Thursday,</u> <u>26 February</u> <u>am</u>	<u>Item 9:</u> Report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW)	Chairperson of the GEPW	Under this item the Chairperson of the GEPW will brief the Commission on the Group's work since the fifty-eighth Annual Session	E/ECE/1415	

² The Myrdal Lecture series is named in honour Gunnar Myrdal, the first Executive Secretary of the UNCECE (1947-1957) and who was also awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics. Each lecture is devoted to an important economic issue and is delivered by a distinguished economist.

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<u>Thursday,</u> <u>26 February</u> <u>pm</u>	<u>Item 10:</u> Election of officers	Chairperson			
	<u>Item 11:</u> Adoption of the Report	Rapporteur			

General Notes

1. The fifty-ninth session of the Commission (24-26 February 2004) will be preceded by a seminar. Debate under the session's agenda item 2 will draw upon the seminar's discussion.
2. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments in the Commission's three official languages (English, French, Russian) not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, i.e. not later than 12 January 2004. For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in the provisional agenda to the meeting.
3. and representatives from other organizations/initiatives should refrain from general statements and limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action. Any delegation wishing to provide a text for distribution is requested to provide the secretariat, preferably in advance of the session, with sufficient copies (approximately 75).



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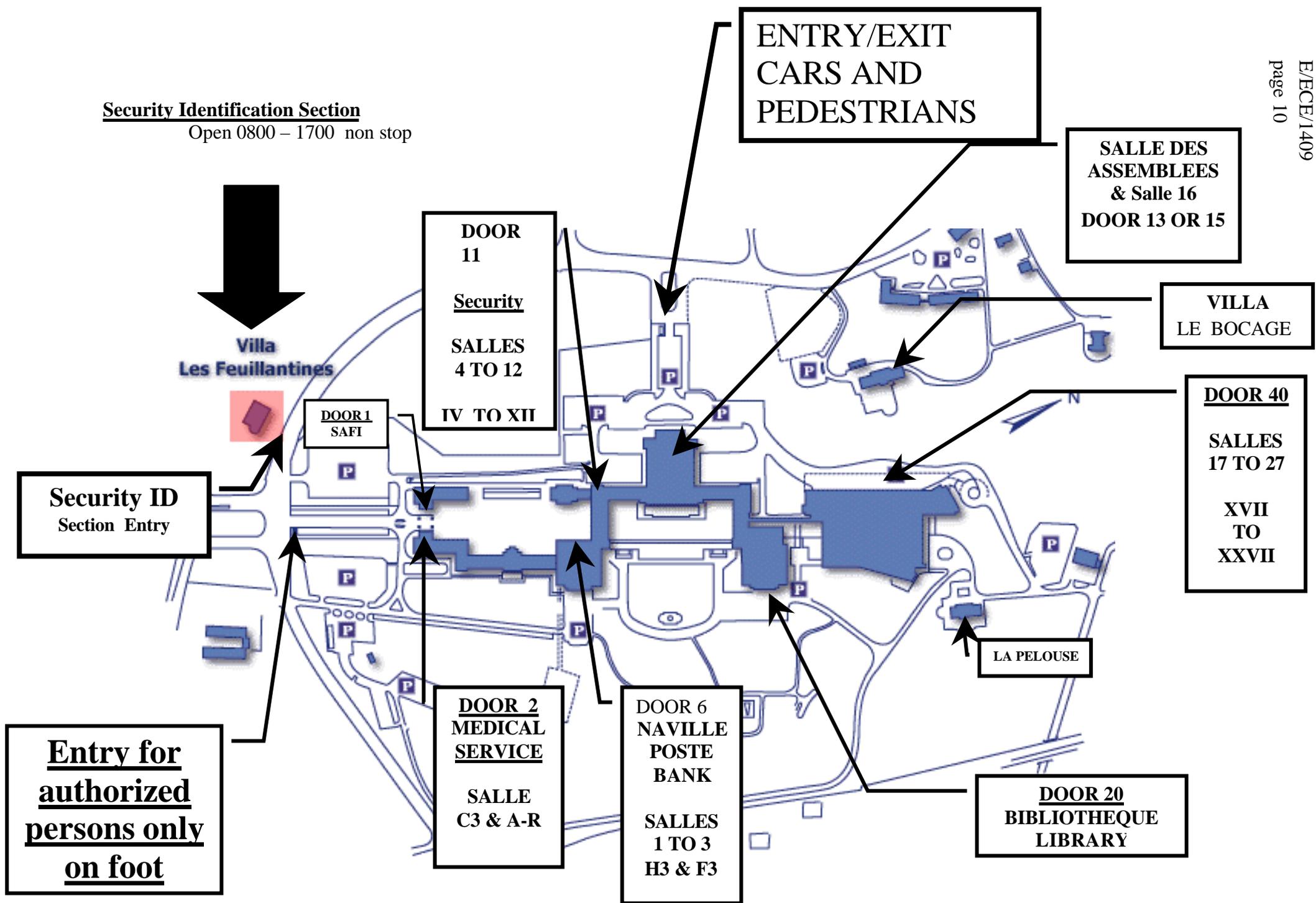
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