

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda: Climate change mitigation and adaptation –
The work of ECE: Translating global objectives and commitments into regional results**

**Palais des Nations, Room XIX
31 March 2009
Provisional Programme**

CHAired BY: Mr. François-Xavier De Donnea, Minister of State, Belgium

10.00 – 11.00 OPENING SESSION: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ECE REGION

What is the impact of climate change (actual and expected) on the UNECE region and its member States? What are the region's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts? Looking to the future, what are the challenges for the region's climate change agenda? The financial crisis and climate change: a green new deal? How can we green our economies? What are climate change challenges for the automotive industry, and how is it coping with them?

Mr. Predrag Nenezic, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Montenegro: *Regional efforts to meet climate change challenges: mitigation and adaptation*

Mr. Matthias Machnig, State Secretary for the Environment, Germany: *Greening our economies*

Mr. Gérard Poffet, Vice-Director, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland: *The impact of climate change on the ECE region and challenges ahead*

Mr. Paolo Monferino, CEO, Industrial Vehicle Corporation (IVECO): *Climate change: the role of the private sector*

- **Interactive Discussion**

11.00 – 13.00 PANEL ONE – UNECE ACTING ON CLIMATE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AIR POLLUTION AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
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What are the needs for market formation and financing energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia? How can private-public partnerships contribute to this? What are the benefits of housing energy efficiency, and which are the experiences and challenges ahead? Given that the building sector has very high potential for reducing emissions, how can upcoming negotiations in Copenhagen best address energy efficiency in buildings? What are the co-benefits of integrated strategies for abating air pollution and mitigating GHG emissions through the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution? How can cooperation between the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the UNFCCC/IPCC be strengthened to explore further and develop an integrated framework for these strategies? What is the potential impact of establishing standards for fuel efficiency on the reduction of CO2 emissions by cars? What is the future for UNECE as a regulatory body and the role of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations? How can the EU and UNECE cooperate to promote the use of environmentally friendly vehicles?

Overview:

Professor David Simon, Royal Holloway College, London (Moderator)

Mr. Lajos Csepi, Deputy Minister of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy, Hungary: *Climate change: Energy and Transport*

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Giacomo Mattino, Deputy Head of Unit for Automotive Industry, Competitiveness, internal market for goods and sectoral policies, Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, European Commission: *Mitigation in the transport sector: the EU perspective*

Mr. Martin Williams, United Kingdom, Chairman of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: *Co-benefits from integrated strategies on air pollution and climate change*

- **Interactive Discussion**

Mr. Markus van der Burg, Director, Conning Asset Management Ltd., SwissRe Group, London: *Financing for energy efficiency*

Mr. Wolfgang Förster, Senior Advisor, Vienna Regional Housing Department, Austria: *Environmentally friendly housing*

- **Interactive Discussion**

15.00 – 16.00	PANEL TWO – UNECE ACTING ON CLIMATE: WATER, FORESTRY AND TIMBER: NATURAL SYSTEMS MUST ADAPT, BUT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO MITIGATION
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Forestry and timber: As carbon sinks and producers of carbon neutral products, what new risks associated with climate change do forests face? What are the challenges of combining multiple roles while maintaining sustainable forest management? Water: How can the UNECE Water Convention contribute to climate change adaptation, transboundary water cooperation and security? Will climate change adaptation become the driver of transboundary cooperation? How can UNECE activities on adaptation to climate change in water contribute to COP15 in Copenhagen? How does transboundary cooperation on environmental issues through ENVSEC contribute to improving security in the ECE region?

Overview:

Professor David Simon, Royal Holloway College, London (Moderator)

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Allan Carroll, Research Scientist – Insect Ecology, Canadian Forestry Service, Canada:
Timber and sustainable forest management

Mr. Carel de Villeneuve, Senior Policy Adviser on global issues, General Directorate for Water Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Netherlands:
Adaptation in the water sector

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities:
OSCE's work on climate change and cooperation with UNECE

Mr. Christophe Bouvier, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe: *ENVSEC and the environment and security nexus*

- **Interactive Discussion**

16.00 – 17.15 PANEL THREE – UNECE ACTING ON CLIMATE: SOCIETAL CHANGE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE
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How can society at all levels – including involving key stakeholders from the private sector, civil society organizations and educational institutions – be mobilized to support and implement solutions? Which institutions are needed and how should they be structured to effectively mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change? How can transparency, accountability and public engagement be guaranteed? What is the role for the UNECE Aarhus Convention? How can education contribute to raise awareness? How can Strategic Environment Assessment under the UNECE Espoo Convention and official statistics for climate relevant emissions and the human activities that cause them contribute to factoring climate change into societal decision-making?

Overview:

Mr. Jan Dusik, First Deputy Minister for the Environment, Czech Republic, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (Moderator)

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Jan Dusik, First Deputy Minister for the Environment, Czech Republic, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention: *Contribution of UNECE Aarhus Convention to climate change mitigation and adaptation*

Ms. Irina Semko, Head of International Relations Department and of the Centre of ESD, International Sakharov Environmental University, Ministry of Education, Belarus: *Addressing climate change through education for sustainable development*

Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Director General, Statistics Finland: *Climate change and official statistics*

Mr. John Hontelez, Secretary-General, European Environmental Bureau: *Public participation in climate change debate*

Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom: *Strategic environment assessment under UNECE Espoo Convention*

- **Interactive Discussion**

17.15 – 18.00 CONCLUDING SEGMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION
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Moderator: Chairperson, UNECE

The Executive Secretary will provide a summary of the proposals made during the day for possible follow-up action by the UNECE Executive Committee or the various sectoral committees.