

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

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Cross-sectoral activities: European Environment and Health Process

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European Environment and Health Ministerial Board third term (2017–2018)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy requested the secretariat to solicit interest from the 53 ECE member States also members of the WHO Regional Office for Europe in serving on the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board during the next term (2017–2018) (ECE/CEP/2015/2, para. 85 (c)).

Pursuant to that request, on 1 September 2016 the secretariat sent out official letters to the 53 ECE member States. The current paper presents the overview of the nominees for the Board as at 12 December 2016.

The Committee Bureau will consider the applications received at its meeting on 24 January 2017 and will make a recommendation on the appointment matter with a view to facilitate the work of the Committee.

The Committee will be invited to consider and appoint the members from the environment sector for the Board for 2017–2018.

I. Background

1. The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma, March 2010) established the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board to serve as a political driving force of the Environment and Health process.
2. The Board is composed of eight ministers, or their high-level representatives, nominated by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe from the health sector and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy from the environmental sector, so as to ensure balanced sectoral and geographical representation. The Board is accountable to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The secretariat for the Board is provided by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.
3. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy appointed in 2010 the Ministers of Environment from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Romania and Turkey for the first term (2011–2012) of the Board. In 2012 the Committee appointed the Ministers of Environment from Belgium, Israel, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine for the second term (2013–2014). During the third term (2015–2016), the Board included the

Ministers of Environment of Armenia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Montenegro (for 2015) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (for 2016).

4. From the health sector, the WHO Regional Committee for Europe appointed the Ministers of Health from France, Malta, Serbia and Slovenia for the first term; Ministers of Health from Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania and Spain for the second term; and Ministers of Belarus, Lithuania, Spain and Uzbekistan for the third term.

5. Other members of the Board include the WHO Regional Director for Europe, the ECE Executive Secretary, the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, and the European Commission.

6. The Board has been co-Chaired by the Minister of Environment of Armenia and the Minister of Health from Spain. The rules of procedure and the results of the Board's work are available on the WHO website¹.

7. At its twenty-first session (Geneva, 27–30 October 2015), the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy requested the ECE secretariat to solicit interest from the 53 ECE member States also members of the WHO Regional Office for Europe in serving on the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board during the next term (2017–2018) (ECE/CEP/2015/2, para. 85 (c)). Accordingly, the secretariat sent out official letters to the 53 ECE member States inviting ministers of environment to inform the secretariat of their interest in serving on the Board during 2017–2018.

8. The current paper presents the overview of the nominees for the Board as at 12 December 2016. The Committee Bureau will consider all applications received at its meeting on Tuesday, 24 January 2017, with a view to make a recommendation on the appointment matter. In their consideration, the Bureau will also take into account the developments under the European Environment and Health Process in preparing the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Ostrava, Czechia, 13–15 June 2017). In particular, the Bureau will take into account the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force (Vienna, 29–30 November 2016) regarding a new institutional framework for the future governance of the European Environment and Health Process that includes discontinuation of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board, pending the decision of the Ostrava Conference.²

9. The Committee will be invited to consider the applications received and appoint the members from the environment sector.

II. Nominations received from the environment sector

| Name (listed in alphabetical order) | Title | Country | Sub-region / group | Received on | Previous terms served on EHMB (environment/health/none) | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---|-----------|-------------|
| | | | | | 2011–2012 | 2013–2014 | 2015–2016 |
| Mr. Aramayis Grigoryan | Minister of Nature Protection | Armenia | Caucasus | 9 December 2016 | None | None | Environment |
| Mr. Branislav Nedimovic | Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection | Serbia | South-Eastern Europe | 12 November 2016 | Health | None | None |
| Mr. Mirko Šarović | Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations | Bosnia and Herzegovina | South-Eastern Europe | 20 October 2016 | None | None | None |

¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/pages/european-environment-and-health-process-ehp/governance/european-environment-and-health-ministerial-board-ehmb>

² Short meeting report is available at www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-22/EURO_EHTF6_16_SummaryReport_e.pdf

10. The secretariat has also received several communications from Ministers of Environment (from Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey) which, while highlighting the Board's role in promoting the Environment and Health process and in reducing the environmental impacts on health, informed the secretariat that they do not intend to nominate their candidatures for the next term of the Board.

III. Reference materials on the European Environment and Health Process and the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board

11. *Parma Ministerial Conference*: www.euro.who.int/en/home/conferences/fifth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health

12. *European Environment and Health Ministerial Board*: www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/european-process-on-environment-and-health/governance/european-environment-and-health-ministerial-board-ehmb

13. *Rules of procedure of the Board*:

English: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/189718/European-Environment-and-Health-Ministerial-Board,-Rules-of-Procedure-Eng.pdf?ua=1

French: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/189719/European-Environment-and-Health-Ministerial-Board,-Rules-of-Procedure-final-Fre.pdf?ua=1

Russian: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/189721/European-Environment-and-Health-Ministerial-Board,-Rules-of-Procedure-final-Rus.pdf?ua=1

14. *Report of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy* (EUR/RC63/10):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/WHO.RC63wd10.EHMB-2.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/WHO.RC63wd10.EHMB-2.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/WHO.RC63wd10.EHMB-2.r.pdf

15. *Report on the European Environment and Health Process* (background document):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/WHO.RC63.ReportEHP.e.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/WHO.RC63.ReportEHP.r.pdf

16. *Progress report on European Environment and Health Process* (EUR/RC64/24 Rev.1):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc.64.24.rev.1.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc64.24.rev.1.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc64.24.rev.1.r.pdf

17. *Progress report on European Environment and Health Process* (EUR/RC65/18):

English: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/283839/65wd18e_EHP_150476.pdf?ua=1

French: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/283850/65wd18f_EHP_150476.pdf?ua=1

Russian: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/283849/65wd18r_EHP_150476.pdf?ua=1

18. *Environment and health in the WHO European Region: progress, challenges and lessons learned* (EUR/RC65/11):

English:

www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/283041/65wd11e_EnvironmentHealth_150478.pdf?ua=1

French:

www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/283809/65wd11f_EnvironmentHealth_150478.pdf?ua=1

Russian:

www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/283847/65wd11r_EnvironmentHealth_150478.pdf?ua=1

19. *Improving environment and health in Europe: how far have we gotten?*, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2015:

English: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/276102/Improving-environment-health-europe-en.pdf?ua=1

Russian: www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/276103/Improving-environment-health-europe-ru.pdf?ua=1

20. *Progress report on European Environment and Health Process* (EUR/RC64/24 Rev.1):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc.64.24.rev.1.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc64.24.rev.1.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-20/eur.rc64.24.rev.1.r.pdf

21. *Report of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on its seventeenth session* (ECE/CEP/161, paragraphs 100–107):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/ece/cep/ece.cep.161.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/ece/cep/ece.cep.161.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2010/ece/cep/ece.cep.161.r.pdf

22. *Report of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on its eighteenth session* (ECE/CEP/2012/2, paragraphs 70–74):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/ece/cep/ece.cep.2012.2.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/ece/cep/ece.cep.2012.2.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/ece/cep/ece.cep.2012.2.r.pdf

23. *Report of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on its nineteenth session* (ECE/CEP/2013/2, paragraphs 81–85):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2013/ece/cep/ece.cep.2013.2.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2013/ece/cep/ece.cep.2013.2.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2013/ece/cep/ece.cep.2013.2.r.pdf

24. *Report of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on its twentieth session* (ECE/CEP/2014/2, paragraphs 81–85):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/ece/cep/ece.cep.2014.2.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/ece/cep/ece.cep.2014.2.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/ece/cep/ece.cep.2014.2.r.pdf

25. *Report of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy on its twenty-first session* (ECE/CEP/2015/2, paragraphs 85 (c)):

English: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/ece/cep/ece.cep.2015.2.e.pdf

French: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/ece/cep/ece.cep.2015.2.f.pdf

Russian: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/ece/cep/ece.cep.2015.2.r.pdf
