

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Special session

Geneva, 24–27 May 2011

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe”**

**Ministerial Conference: provisional agenda**

Information Paper No.7

20 May 2011

**Provisional list of documents for the Astana Ministerial Conference**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

Pursuant to a decision by Ministers at the Sixth “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 2007), the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference will be held from 21 to 23 September 2011 in Astana (Kazakhstan). The Astana EfE Ministerial Conference is being organized in accordance with the Reform Plan of the EfE process.

The secretariat has prepared the present paper to provide the Committee on Environmental Policy with an overview of documents prepared for the Astana Ministerial Conference. The provisional list is structured in accordance with the provisions of the EfE Reform Plan (ECE/CEP/S/152, para.12 (d) and (e)) and the agreed Organizational Issues for the Conference (ECE/CEP/2010/2, section II). It includes official substantive documents and information documents prepared by the UNECE secretariat and relevant EfE partners.

In order to considerably diminish the printing of documents for the Conference, it is proposed to make them available on the website and to encourage participants to download them in electronic format and, if necessary, print them. Only documents produced during the preparatory meeting of the Committee and the Conference (e.g. Ministerial Declaration and Chair’s Summary) will be distributed with two hard copies per delegation.

The present document is being submitted to the Committee on Environmental Policy for consideration.

No.	Document title	Author(s)	Language(s)	Document nature / brief description	Expected date of issue or publication <sup>1</sup> / current status
<b>Official substantive documents</b>					
1.	Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference	Committee on Environmental Policy	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting agenda	26 Jul / pending CEP approval
2.	Organization of work at the Conference	Committee on Environmental Policy	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting programme	8 Aug / pending CEP approval
3.	List of Conference documents	UNECE	En / Fr / Ru	Overview of meeting documents and symbols	8 Aug
4.	Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems	Committee on Environmental Policy; UNECE and OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Fr / Ru	Substantive document to support discussion and decision-making	8 Aug / pending CEP approval
5.	Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development	Committee on Environmental Policy; UNECE and UNEP	En / Fr / Ru	Substantive document to support discussion and decision-making	8 Aug / pending CEP approval
6.	Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments	Steering Group on Environmental Assessments; EEA in cooperation with Efe partners	En / Ru	Assessment report; includes recommendations	(to be determined)
7.	The second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region	Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention; UNECE	En / Ru	Assessment report; includes recommendations	8 Aug
8.	Draft Ministerial Declaration	Ministers and Heads of Delegation of UNECE region	En / Fr / Ru	Draft agreed outcome	8 Aug / pending CEP drafting
9.	Astana Water Action	CEP Astana Water Action Drafting Group; Water Convention Bureau	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting outcome; initiative on actions required for a sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems	8 Aug / pending CEP approval

<sup>1</sup> The UNECE internal deadline for submitting documents to the UNOG Documents Management Section is 11 July 2011. Thus, documents processed by/through the UNECE secretariat should be submitted to the secretariat by 27 June to allow for sufficient time for formatting, editing and approving these documents.

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10.	Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative	Kazakhstan with interested countries and partners	En / Fr / Ru	Initiative; aims to stimulate regional, trans-regional and intersectoral cooperation, and to enable implementation of principles of “green” economy in relation to changing political and economic conditions, environmental priorities and the growing needs of the countries of Europe, Asia and the Pacific	Available; the Initiative was welcomed and endorsed by the ESCAP 6 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Astana, Sep 2010; the EfE Ministerial Conference is expected to also endorse the Initiative
11.	Partnership Programme of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative	Kazakhstan with interested countries and partners	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting outcome; Partnership Programme to implement the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative	8 Aug / pending CEP approval
12.	Information note on logistics for the Conference	Host country and UNECE	En / Ru	Note including information on Conference venue, accommodation, transfer from/to hotels, etc.	8 Aug
13.	Ministerial Declaration (post-session)	Committee on Environmental Policy	En / Fr / Ru	Agreed outcome	23 Sep the unedited version 3 Oct the edited version
14.	Chair's Summary of the Conference (post-session)	Host country and UNECE in cooperation with relevant EfE partners	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting summary	23 Sep the unedited version 3 Oct the edited version
15.	Report of the Conference (post-session)	UNECE	En / Fr / Ru	Meeting report	21 Oct
<b>Information documents</b>					
<i>Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems</i>					
16.	Collection of good practices on the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems	UNECE jointly with partners	En	Good practices	8 Aug
17.	Guidelines for developing national strategies to use water quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool	UNECE	En / Ru	Guidelines	Available / pending CEP approval
18.	Water management in Central Asia and the role of UNECE Conventions	UNECE	En / Ru	Awareness and capacity building	23 Aug
19.	From Almaty to Astana: Ten years of water policy reforms in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	The objectives of this report are (i) to evaluate the performance of the water and sanitation sector (WSS) in EECCA over the last ten years	8 September 2011/Final draft available

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				and (ii) to identify key factors underlying that performance. The report draws policy recommendations to help countries stem the overall decline in WSS in EECCA, building on existing achievements, and tackle new challenges such as climate change, rising energy costs and public budget cuts in a context of global economic crisis.	
20.	Establishing a dynamic system of surface water quality regulation: Guidance for countries of EECCA	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	This guidance document promotes the adoption of ambitious but feasible water quality requirements by building capacity for the preparation and implementation of the water quality planning and regulatory components of integrated water resources management in EECCA countries. It is designed to help EECCA countries to progress with a “second generation” of water-related legislation.	31 July 2011/Final draft available
<b><i>Sustainable management of water and greening the economy (cross-cutting theme)</i></b>					
21.	Environmental Performance Review Programme: third cycle of reviews	Committee on Environmental Policy; UNECE	En / Fr / Ru	Proposed structure for a third cycle of the Environmental Performance Review Programme	Available / pending CEP approval
22.	Astana public-private partnerships	UNECE in cooperation with partners	En / Ru	Initiative to strengthen the private sector participation in the EfE process	8 Aug
23.	Declaration by first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Espoo Convention <sup>2</sup> serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	MOP to the Espoo Convention serving as the MOP to the Protocol on SEA	En / Fr / Ru	Agreed outcome; see paragraphs 18–20 of the draft declaration ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2011/eia/sea/ece.mp.eia.sea.2011.L.3.e.pdf">http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2011/eia/sea/ece.mp.eia.sea.2011.L.3.e.pdf</a> )	Declaration to be adopted by the first session of the MOP to the Espoo Convention serving as the MOP to the Protocol on SEA (Geneva, 20–23 June 2011); final document – in Aug 2011
24.	Report on the implementation of the Belgrade Initiative on SEA	[Armenia, Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, with the support of UNECE, UNDP and the REC-CEE] (to be confirmed)	En / Ru	Report; presenting progress in the implementation of the Belgrade Initiative on SEA	Aug 2011

<sup>2</sup> Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

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25.	“Rio plus Aarhus — 20 years on: Bearing fruit and looking forward” Chişinău Declaration	Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention <sup>3</sup>	En / Fr / Ru	Agreed outcome; see draft declaration ( <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop4/Documents/ece_mp_pp_2011_L_9_adv.pdf">http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop4/Documents/ece_mp_pp_2011_L_9_adv.pdf</a> ); also serves as an input to the Rio+20 Conference. The declaration addresses issues of green economy and environmental governance	Declaration to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at its fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June-1 July 2011); final document – in Aug 2011
26.	Private sector participation in water supply and sanitation in EECCA	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	This document contains a review of EECCA countries experience with private sector participation (PSP), including proceedings from a thematic regional meeting, as well as the results of applying the “OECD Checklist for PSP in water infrastructure” by several EECCA countries.	Released in May 2011
27.	Guidelines for performance-based contracts between water utilities and municipalities: Lessons learnt from EECCA	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	This analytical report summarises the most recent experience with designing, negotiating and implementing performance-based contracts in the water supply and sanitation sector in selected EECCA countries.	31 July 2011/Final draft available
28.	Benefits of investing in water and sanitation: An OECD perspective	OECD	English	The provision of water supply, sanitation and wastewater services generates substantial benefits for public health, the economy and the environment. Benefit-to-cost ratios can be as high as 7 to 1 for basic water and sanitation services in developing countries. The full magnitude of the benefits of water services, however, often remains invisible to policy makers. The report tries to address this problem by summarising relevant information on this subject.	Released in March 2011
29.	Managing water for all: An OECD perspective on pricing and financing	OECD	En / Fr	This report examines strategic financial planning for water supply and sanitation that balances the key sources of revenues for the sector - the "3Ts" of taxes, tariffs and transfers. It also discusses the design and implementation of water pricing strategies and recent	Released in March 2009

<sup>3</sup> Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention).

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				development in private sector participation in the water sector. A particular focus is put on trends and the future outlook of water use in agriculture. The report considers both developing and OECD countries and offers concrete recommendations for action.	
<b><i>Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development</i></b>					
30.	The role of education for sustainable development (ESD) in shifting to a green economy	UNECE	En	Discussion paper; presents potential key linkages between ESD and greening the economy, namely shifting economic thinking and promoting sustainable consumption and green skills	Available / the paper supported discussion at the 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD (Geneva, 7–8 Apr 2011)
31.	Green Economy: Success stories	UNEP	En / Ru	Compilation and analysis of achievement and on-going good practices	Beginning of Sep 2011
32.	Greening public budgets in EECCA	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	This analytical report presents the results from a survey of ten EECCA countries on mainstreaming environmental programmes into public budgets. The analysis contains policy relevant recommendations on improving medium-term financial planning of environmental expenditure.	8 September 2011/final draft available
33.	Green growth and environmental governance in EECCA	OECD/EAP Task Force	En / Ru	This paper presents an assessment of opportunities and constraints for green growth in EECCA, particularly as concerns the potential of current environmental policies to catalyse transition towards green economy and the capacity of environmental authorities to play a leading role in this process.	8 September 2011/draft policy conclusions available
34.	Towards green growth – Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report	OECD	En / Fr	This report, to be delivered to the 2011 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, elaborates specific tools and recommendations to help governments to identify the policies that can help achieve the most efficient shift to greener growth. It proposes a flexible policy framework that can be tailored to a country's specific needs and circumstances.	Final draft released in May 2011

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35.	Towards green growth - Monitoring progress. OECD Indicators	OECD	En / Fr	This report, to be delivered to the 2011 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, provides a conceptual framework and indicators for monitoring progress towards green growths and proposes a way forward towards addressing the most pressing data development needs in this area. The set of green growth indicators listed in the report is a starting point rather than a final list and will be further elaborated as new data become available and as concepts evolve.	Final draft released in May 2011

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