

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Bureau meeting
Geneva, 29 April 2013

11 March 2013

Annotated provisional agenda for the meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in the meeting room XV,
on Monday, 29 April 2012, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform.
3. Provisional agenda for the 19th session of CEP.
4. Preparation of the “Environment for Europe” mid-term review.
5. The Eight “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
6. Rules of procedures of CEP.
7. Criteria for financial support.
8. Calendar of meetings.
9. Other business.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

(8.30–8.40 a.m.)

1. Members of the Bureau will be invited to adopt the agenda of their meeting as set out in the present document.

2. Outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform

(8.40–9.10 a.m.)

2. Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider the outcomes of the 2005 ECE reform. The review was carried out by the ECE Executive Committee in the period July 2011– February 2013. It included a series of consultations with member States, as well

as reports by the ECE Sectoral Committees. The outcome of the review (E/ECE/1468)¹ was submitted to the 65th of ECE (Geneva, 9-11 April 2013) for adoption.

3. Provisional agenda for the 19th session of CEP *(9.10–10 a.m.)*

3. Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider for approval the proposed annotated provisional agenda for the 19th session of CEP (ECE/CEP/2013/1), as well as the provisional organization of work of CEP-19 (information paper No.1), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Chair.

4. In this context, the CEP Chair will inform the Bureau about the relevant outcomes of the informal meeting of representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and CEP (Geneva, 27 February 2013).

5. Regarding agenda item 7 on the ECE MEAs: strengthening national implementation and compliance, the CEP Bureau will be invited to consider the proposed focus of this item, i.e. on “strengthening national implementation and compliance”. In this context, the representatives of governing bodies of MEAs present at their above informal meeting considered the proposed focus and agreed that this could be an interesting issue for discussion at CEP-19.

6. Given a large agenda of CEP-19 and the limited time available, the CEP Bureau will be invited to consider the time allocation for each agenda item and sub-item with a view to provide guidance to the secretariat in finalising the timetable.

4. Preparation of the “Environment for Europe” mid-term review *(10–11.30 a.m.)*

7. CEP decided to organize the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) mid-term review of the outcomes of the Astana Conference at its 19th session and entrusted the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau and in cooperation with relevant EfE partners, to proceed with the preparations for the mid-term review (ECE/CEP/2012/2, para. 25).

8. Members of the Bureau will be invited to share their views about the proposed organization for the EfE mid-term review, as included in the agenda of CEP-19 (ECE/CEP/2013/1, paragraphs 6–41). The CEP Bureau will be invited to particularly consider the sessions’ format and the time allocation for each item of the mid-term review as presented in the proposed organization of work (information paper No. 1).

9. Concerning agenda item 3 (e) on the environmental assessment and reporting, the CEP Bureau will be invited to consider the following issues:

(a) Following a request by Ministers in Astana, the European Environment Agency (EEA) prepared the “Outline on the establishment of a regular assessment and reporting process underpinned by the gradual development of SEIS”. A first version of the document was presented to CEP-18, followed by a revised version to reflect comments received, which was circulated by e-mail to CEP in December 2012. An addendum presenting ECE inputs into the development of SEIS, which is complementary to the EEA document, was prepared by the ECE secretariat and circulated to CEP in February 2013.

¹ http://www.unece.org/commission/2013/65th_index.html

The Members of the Bureau will be invited to share their views on the governance structure for overseeing the establishment of SEIS. The Bureau could consider the option of CEP overseeing the establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment, including the development of SEIS, at the political level.

At the same time, in accordance with its renewed mandate for 2012–2014, the ECE Working Group on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (WGEMA) would coordinate and assist countries and other SEIS stakeholders in developing SEIS across the region, in close cooperation with EEA and other relevant partners.

(b) At its 18th session CEP invited the secretariat of the Water Convention to report on steps taken and future plans related to the preparation of future assessments of transboundary waters and the envisaged cooperation with SEIS. The Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider whether to invite the secretariats of other ECE MEAs to inform CEP on steps taken and future plans related to SEIS development in the region (see the agenda of CEP-19, paragraph 29). In this context, the CEP Bureau will also be invited to consider and advise the secretariat whether the MEAs input into the SEIS development might be best addressed during the item 3 (a) on MEAs of CEP-19.

5. The Eight “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

(11.30 a.m.–noon)

10. According to the EfE reform plan, not later than 18 months before the Conference CEP at its regular session should decide on not more than two themes and discuss the outline of the agenda of the Conference. A decision on the agenda of the Conference should be taken at the regular meeting of CEP approximately 12 months prior to the Conference and further preparatory work would commence.

11. Taken into account that the Environment and Health Ministerial Conference is planned to be organized in 2016, the EfE Ministerial Conference could be organized in 2015. If so, then the two themes for the Conference should be identified by CEP already at its 19th session.

12. Alternatively, taken into account that the mid-term review of the Astana outcomes is organized in 2013, the next EfE Ministerial Conference could be organized in 2016, i.e. with an interval of five years. At the same time, the organization of the Environment and Health Conference in the same year should be taken into account.

13. Members of the Bureau will be invited to share their views about the Eight EfE Ministerial Conference. In particular, participants will be invited to discuss the envisaged preparatory timeframe for the Conference as well as identifying a venue for the Conference.

14. Should the Bureau decide so, the secretariat would prepare a document with the general requirements for hosting such a conference to facilitate the process of choosing a venue at the CEP-19.

Lunch break (noon–1.30 p.m.)

5. The Eight “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (*cont’d*)

(1.30–2.30 p.m.)

6. Rules of procedures of CEP

(2.30–3.30 p.m.)

15. CEP mandated its Bureau to provide recommendations to CEP at its 19th session on the possible elaboration and further adoption of the rules of procedures of CEP, in accordance with rule 20 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ECE (E/ECE/778/rev.5).

16. Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider a first draft of rules of procedure and provide guidance to the secretariat in revising the document. Subsequently the document will be submitted to CEP-19 for consideration with a view to its adoption.

7. Criteria for financial support

(3.30–4 p.m.)

17. CEP mandated its Bureau to consider criteria for financial support for participating in meetings and events, with a view to assessing whether the current criteria were the most appropriate, and to providing recommendations to CEP at its nineteenth session.

18. Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider the criteria for financial support on the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat.

8. Calendar of meetings

(4–4.15 p.m.)

19. Members of the Bureau will be invited to consider the proposed schedule of meetings of CEP and the CEP Bureau for the period 2014–2016. Subsequently, this schedule will be submitted to CEP-19 for approval. Having a schedule of meetings agreed well in advance would provide useful guidance to countries in planning for these meetings, as well as would greatly facilitate the internal planning of meetings at the facilities of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

9. Other business

(4.15–4.30 p.m.)

20. The Bureau may wish to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention.
