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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”

DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE CONFERENCE AGENDA¹

Note by the secretariat²

Introduction

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy at its sixteenth session agreed on the two main themes for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (EfE) to be held in Astana/Kazakhstan in fall 2011. The two themes are *Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems*; and *Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development*. The agenda for the Astana Conference needs to be developed in line with the parameters defined in the Reform Plan of the EfE process.
2. The Committee requested the secretariat to develop, in consultation with the Bureau, the first draft of the outline of the Conference agenda for consideration by the meeting of its Extended Bureau on 16-17 March 2010. Interested countries were invited to submit their proposals to the secretariat by Friday, 4 December 2009. Proposals were received from the European Union, Kazakhstan and Switzerland. These can be viewed on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/ExtBureau16-17Mar2010.html>).
3. To brainstorm on the water agenda for the Astana Conference, a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and of the Committee on Environmental Policy took place in Geneva on 28 January 2010. Following extensive debates, the meeting suggested addressing the theme “sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems” from two perspectives (“lenses”): (a) water for sustainable development; and (b) climate change. Participants felt that these two perspectives would offer an interesting approach to address many of the most relevant issues in the region related to the sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems. The meeting also identified a number of possible issues under these two perspectives. Also, a number of cross-cutting issues which are underlying both perspectives were suggested.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Prepared in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy.

4. The joint meeting outcome is available on the above-mentioned UNECE website. As a follow-up to this brainstorming, participants were encouraged to further develop their ideas on possible inputs, outcomes, format and partners related to the water theme. Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan and Switzerland followed up with questions, comments and with concrete ideas. On the basis of the received contributions, the secretariat prepared a proposal presented hereunder in the form of a table. The left column lists possible sub-themes to be addressed by the Conference. The other columns contain proposals for: input(s) to the Conference on these sub-themes; outcome(s) or an added value of addressing sub-themes; format for discussing at the Conference; and lead actors and potential partners for the preparation of the discussion at the Conference.

5. With regard to the “green economy” theme, the secretariat organized two internal brainstorming meetings including one with the participation of representatives of all UNECE Divisions. Various opportunities for sub-themes were discussed at these meetings along with suggestions for specific inputs, outputs, formats, lead actors and partners. The secretariat also participated in or followed closely activities related to “green economy” of relevant international organizations such as UNEP and OECD. Taking into account the written contributions submitted to the secretariat, the outcome of the internal brainstorming meetings and the information and knowledge acquired from various ongoing “green economy” international activities, the secretariat prepared a proposal in a similar format to that of the “water” table.

6. The proposals for the Conference agenda outline presented in the table hereunder are of a very preliminary nature. They attempt to stimulate discussions by Governments and all partners concerned rather than provide straightforward guidance at this stage. Each sub-theme needs to be scrutinized especially from several points of view: (a) its political relevance for a ministerial discussion; (b) the added value such discussion may bring vis-à-vis the ongoing work on the same sub-theme in other forums; (c) the best format for the discussion of the sub-theme at the Conference; and (d) the lead actor(s) that will be invited to take responsibility for the preparation of the discussion, including drafting elements on the sub-theme in the official document on the theme that will have to be prepared pursuant to the EfE Reform Plan.

7. The document also includes a draft timeframe for the Astana Ministerial Conference that the Committee may wish to take into account when deciding upon the number of sub-themes and the format for addressing them during the Conference.

8. The Extended Bureau of the Committee is expected to agree on the outline of the Conference agenda. According to the EfE Reform Plan a decision on the agenda itself of the Conference should be taken at the regular meeting of the Committee approximately 12 months prior to the Conference; thus this decision is expected to be taken by the Committee at its seventeenth session (Geneva, 2-5 November 2010).

I. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
<p><u>Integrated water resources management (IWRM) as a tool for sustainable development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and cross-sectoral cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on integrated water resources management, and water supply and sanitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations of specific features of NPD in selected countries; Presentations of knowledge sharing in IWRM Pilot projects on IWRM of selected transboundary basins Experiences from the implementation of the EU WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned and good practices Creation of sub-regional networks Political guidance on the next steps to strengthen NPD and to promote the lessons in the implementation of the EU WFD also beyond the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNECE OECD/EAP Task Force European Commission <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP UNEP World Bank WMO RECs European ECO-Forum Global Water Partnership ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply and sanitation, and health Economic tools Public Private Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs from the EAP Task Force Inputs from the Protocol on Water and Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pan-European recommendations with a focus on EECCA and SEE countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundtable discussion with ministers, private sector and NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD/EAP Task Force European Commission UNECE WHO/Europe <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFIs (WB, EBRD) ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of transboundary water-related ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-regional input(s) on the protection of transboundary water-related ecosystems and on water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report “Assessment of water-related ecosystems in Central Asia”; Pilot projects on River Basin Management Plan of selected transboundary basins Sub-regional preparatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision (e.g. a sub-regional action plan) on the protection of transboundary water-related ecosystems and water quality based on the EU WFD and IWRM Identification of institutional mechanisms required to implement the decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion / Plenary session Official event / side event Exhibitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Asian and other interested countries IFAS Interested river-basin management boards <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP UNECE UN ESCAP UNDP

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
	meeting in Kazakhstan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OSCE ▪ European Commission ▪ CAREC ▪ PEBLDS ▪ Global Water Partnership ▪ World Bank ▪ Private sector ▪ ...
<p>Climate change (CC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptation/mitigation ▪ Impact of CC, including social (health) and economic impacts ▪ Ecosystems, land degradation, floods, desertification, biodiversity ▪ Water efficiency / Energy efficiency ▪ Transboundary cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNECE Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change ▪ Pilot projects on adaptation to CC and findings of the mechanism to promote pan-European exchange of experience ▪ 2nd assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region ▪ Europe's Environment Assessment of the Assessments (EEAoA) report ▪ EU White Paper "Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action" ▪ Input from PEBLDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decision (strategy or action plan) on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change 2011-2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenary session ▪ Roundtable/Panel discussion on "Implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change: Successes and Challenges" ▪ Side-events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Convention ▪ European Commission ▪ EEA <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNDP ▪ OECD ▪ UNEP ▪ WMO ▪ RECs ▪ PEBLDS ▪ Global Water Partnership ▪ ...
<p>Cross-cutting issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policies and strategies ▪ Financing ▪ Capacity building ▪ Implementation of MEAs ▪ Monitoring and assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EEAoA report ▪ 2nd assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region ▪ Experiences and lessons learned to integrate capacity-building activities of five UNECE Convention ▪ Sourcebook on Funding for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsement of water-quality monitoring guidelines for EECCA and SEE prepared by WGEMA ▪ Decision on the 3rd assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region ▪ Recommendations for strengthening the joint capacity-building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel discussion, including PowerPoint presentations on the two assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EEA ▪ Water Convention <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNDP ▪ OSCE ▪ Ramsar Convention ▪ UNESCO ▪ European Commission

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
	Sustainable Forest Management (as an example for the development of a sourcebook on IWRM and Water Supply and Sanitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of five UNECE Conventions ▪ Sourcebook on funding IWRM and Water Supply and Sanitation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RECs ▪ ...

II. GREENING THE ECONOMY: MAINSTREAMING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
<p><u>The transition towards a green economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental governance, including mainstreaming of environment into sector policies ▪ Eco-efficient economy and links to economic development, including resource efficiency and effective use of environmental public expenditure ▪ Economic instruments for environmental policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the 2nd cycle of environmental performance reviews (EPRs) of UNECE ▪ Input from UNECE MEAs ▪ OECD Green Growth Strategy ▪ Input from UNEP Green Economy Initiative ▪ Input from European Commission ▪ Input from EAP Task Force ▪ Input from THE PEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy recommendations for EECCA and SEE countries ▪ A pan-European roadmap towards a green economy ▪ Mandate for the 3rd cycle of EPRs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenary session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNECE ▪ UNEP ▪ EC ▪ OECD/EAP Task Force <hr/> ▪ EEA ▪ WHO ▪ EBRD ▪ EIB ▪ UNESCAP ▪ UNDP ▪ UNCTAD ▪ World Bank ▪ UNIDO ▪ RECs ▪ European ECO-Forum ▪ ...

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green innovation, green jobs and skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OECD input on Green Growth Strategy ▪ Input from European Commission ▪ Input from International Labour Organization (ILO) ▪ Input from Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roundtable discussion with ministers, private sector and NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OECD ▪ ILO ▪ European Commission ▪ ESD ▪ RECs ▪ Private sector ▪ European ECO-Forum ▪ ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring, indicators and green accounting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EEAoA report ▪ WGEMA monitoring guidelines 	<p>Decisions on modalities for future pan-European Assessment Reports, development of SEIS and future UNECE work on monitoring and assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EEA ▪ UNECE <hr/> ▪ UNEP ▪ UNDP ▪ OECD ▪ RECs ▪ European ECO-Forum ▪ ...
<p><u>Towards sustainable energy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy efficiency (industry life-cycle, power sector, transport, buildings/housing; regulatory instruments / standards / policy reform / financial instruments; awareness-raising through education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EE-21 project: financing EE investments for climate change mitigation ▪ Input from the Committee on Housing and Land Management ▪ Input from THE PEP ▪ Input from ESD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing of good practice ▪ Connecting networks ▪ Identification of policy priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenary session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNECE ▪ International Energy Agency (IEA) <hr/> ▪ OECD ▪ World Energy Council (WEC) ▪ UNDP ▪ UNEP ▪ EBRD

Possible sub-themes	Envisaged input into the Conference	Envisaged outcome / added value of addressing the sub-theme at the Conference	Envisaged format for addressing the sub-theme	Lead actor(s) / potential partner(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting renewable energy investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input from UNEP Financial Initiative ▪ Inputs from IFIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations on supportive frameworks for promoting renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel discussion with Financial Institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Bank ▪ OSCE ▪ ENVSEC ▪ ... <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP ▪ World Bank ▪ EBRD ▪ OECD ▪ UNECE ▪ IEA ▪ WEC ▪ UNDP ▪ ...

III. DRAFT TIMEFRAME FOR THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”

Astana, September/October 2011

1 st day	2 nd day	3 rd day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Registration (8:00–9:00)</i> ▪ <i>Opening of the Conference (9:00–11:00)</i> ▪ <i>Morning session (11:00–13:00)</i> <u>Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plenary session on IWRM (2h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Morning session (9:00 – 13:00)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plenary session on water and adaptation to CC (2h) – Roundtable/Panel on implementation of Guidance on Water and Adaptation to CC (1h) – Panel discussion / plenary session on protection of water-related ecosystems (1h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Morning session (9:00 – 13:00)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plenary session on energy efficiency (2h) – Roundtable with ministers, private sector and NGOs on green innovation, green jobs and skills development (2h)
Lunch break /side-events (13:00–15:00)	Lunch break /side-events (13:00–15:00)	Lunch break /side-events (13:00–15:00)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Afternoon session (15:00–18:00)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Roundtable with ministers, private sector and NGOs on water supply and sanitation (2h) – Panel discussion on water-related cross-cutting issues (1h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Afternoon session (15:00–18:00)</i> <u>Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plenary session on the transition towards a green economy (2h) – Panel discussion on monitoring and green accounting (1h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Afternoon session (15:00 – 16:00)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Panel discussion on renewable energy investments (1h) ▪ <i>Closure of the Conference (16:00 – 17:00)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adoption of Conference outcomes; Chair’s Summary (1h)
Official events / side-events (18:00 – 21:00)	Official events / side-events (18:00 – 21:00)	

- Based on the previous experience, the Conference should start with a short opening event. The host country would be given an opportunity to organize events highlighting its special features in addition to the official Conference agenda;
- The discussions at the Conference should be arranged in an interactive manner and combine various types of sessions, e.g. plenary sessions, roundtables and moderated panel discussions, with a limited number of main speakers from different stakeholders (e.g. UNECE member States, EfE partners and major groups). When possible, interactive sessions, such as roundtables, could be run in parallel;
- The Conference could be structured around the following main clusters (all of them focusing on the agreed priorities):
 - Plenary sessions for the presentation and discussion of the priority topics;
 - Sessions on ongoing cooperation and partnerships in the UNECE region and its subregions with different stakeholders, including the private sector;
 - A session of environmental NGOs and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
 - A session of private sector representatives and ministers in the roundtable format as an integral part of the conference;
 - Sessions dedicated to announcing new partnerships and initiatives by stakeholders;
 - A brief concluding session with the presentation (and adoption, if appropriate) of the main outcomes of the Conference;
- To address issues relevant to the agenda of the Conference in more detail, side-events should be organized by interested UNECE member States, EfE partners and relevant stakeholders;
- To attract the attention of the private sector, opportunities should be provided for the organization of promotional events such as poster exhibitions, trade fairs, roundtables and environmental award initiatives.

(excerpt from the EfE Reform Plan)
