

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Extended Bureau meeting
Geneva, 16-17 March 2010

18 January 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING¹

to be held at the Palais des Nations (Salle VII), Geneva,
starting on Tuesday, 16 March 2009, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the recent meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy.
3. Environmental Performance Reviews.
4. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.
5. Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”.
 - (a) Host country preparations;
 - (b) Draft agenda for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”;
 - (c) Astana Assessment of Assessments Report;
 - (d) Other issues relevant to the Conference.
6. Environmental Programme Performance 2010-2011.
7. Calendar of meetings.
8. Any other business.
9. Closure of the meeting.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form enclosed to the agenda of the meeting, and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat preferably before 19 February 2010 and no later than 26 February by e-mail (efe@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva’s Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map available at: http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Pursuant to the reform of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy was mandated to serve as the convening body for the preparatory process of the EfE Ministerial Conferences. Accordingly, the formal preparations of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana Ministerial Conference) commenced at the sixteenth session of the Committee (Geneva, 20-23 October 2009). The meeting outcomes are presented in the report of the meeting (ECE/CEP/155).

2. At its last meeting the Committee agreed on the two main themes for the Astana Ministerial Conference: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. Furthermore, the Committee decided to convene a meeting of its Extended Bureau with a view to advance in the development of the provisional agenda for the Astana Ministerial Conference, as well as work on a number of pending issues.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Tuesday, 16 March, 10 – 10.10 a.m.

3. Following the opening of the meeting, the Extended Bureau will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2. Outcomes of the recent meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy

Tuesday, 16 March, 10.10 – 10.30 a.m.

4. The secretariat will inform the Extended Bureau about relevant decisions taken at the thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings of the Executive Committee of the ECE (Geneva, 17 December 2009 and 26 February 2010, respectively). The Extended Bureau will be invited to consider these, as appropriate.

Item 3. Environmental Performance Reviews

Tuesday, 16 March, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

5. In accordance with the mandate given by the Committee at its sixteenth session, the Extended Bureau will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Georgia (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/welcome.htm>). The Extended Bureau will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report revised by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews at their meeting on 15 March 2010.

Item 4. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Tuesday, 16 March, 12.30 – 1 p.m.

6. Following a decision by the Committee at its sixteenth session, the Extended Bureau will consider for adoption the Guidelines for developing national strategies to use air quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool (ECE/CEP/2009/10) developed by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

Item 5. Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

(a) Host country preparations for the Conference

Tuesday, 16 March, 3 – 3.30 p.m.

7. The representative of Kazakhstan will be invited to inform the Extended Bureau about progress in the preparations to host the next EfE Ministerial Conference, scheduled to take place in Astana in September/October 2011.

(b) Draft agenda for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

Tuesday, 16 March, 3.30 – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 17 March, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

8. In accordance with the EfE Reform Plan, the Conference agenda should be agreed by the Committee 12 months prior to the Conference (ECE/CEP/S/152, para.12(a)). Consequently, the seventeenth session of the Committee, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 2 to 5 November 2010 will be expected to reach a decision on the agenda of the Conference.

9. Pursuant to a decision by the Committee at its last session, the Extended Bureau will be invited to consider the draft outline of the agenda of the Astana Ministerial Conference (information paper 1). The draft agenda was prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau.

(c) Astana Assessment of Assessments report

Wednesday, 17 March, 3 – 4 p.m.

10. The Extended Bureau will decide on the composition of the Steering Group on Environmental Assessments and will consider the progress in preparing the Astana Assessment of Assessments report.

(d) Other issues relevant to the Conference

Wednesday, 17 March, 4 – 5 p.m.

11. The Extended Bureau will be invited to consider the draft paper with the organizational issues for the Astana Ministerial Conference, with a view to finalize it for approval at the Committee’s next meeting (information paper 2).

12. The Extended Bureau will also be invited to consider the resource requirements for the preparatory process and the Conference (information paper 3), as well as ways to ensure smooth and efficient Conference preparations.

Item 6. Environmental Programme Performance 2010-2011

Wednesday, 17 March, 5 – 5.30 p.m.

13. Following a decision at the last meeting of the Committee, the Extended Bureau will be invited to consider the indicators of achievements for environment programme performance in 2010-2011 with a view to approve them (information paper 4).

Item 7. Calendar of meetings

Wednesday, 17 March, 5.30 – 5.45 p.m.

14. The seventeenth session of the Committee is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 2 to 5 November 2010. The schedule of preparatory meetings for the Conference is contained in annex II to the report of the sixteenth session of the Committee (ECE/CEP/155).

Item 8. Any other business

Wednesday, 17 March, 5.45 – 5.50 p.m.

15. The Extended Bureau will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items will be invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting

Wednesday, 17 March, 5.50 – 6 p.m.

16. The Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Extended Bureau's conclusions and decisions and close the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized and circulated after the meeting.

17. Meeting documentation will be made available in due time on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>).
