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Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Twelfth session,
(Geneva, 10-12 October 2005)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting on Monday, 10 October 2005, at 10 a.m. *

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the UNECE / ENHS Division (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, by fax (+41-22-917-0107). Before the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) to pick up their identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (extension 71204).

Monday, 10 October 2005

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10-10.30 a.m.)

The Committee is expected to adopt the agenda for its twelfth session (ECE/CEP/126).

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixtieth session of the Commission of concern to the Committee (10.30-12 a.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the Commission that are relevant to the Committee (CEP/2005/1), including recommendations of the Group of Experts on programme planning processes.

(a) Sustainable Development in the UNECE region

The secretariat will inform the Committee about the contribution of the UNECE to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 11-22 April 2005) and about the decision taken by the ECE Commission to hold a second Regional Implementation Forum, on 15 and 16 December 2005, on air pollution, climate change, energy and industrial development.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the preparations for the Regional Implementation Meeting as well as on ways to facilitate the interlinkage between the environment and the other sectors concerned.

(b) Collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Committee will be informed about the conclusion of negotiations on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and OSCE. It is foreseen that a review of the OSCE commitments under the cluster of environment and energy will be taken up at the OSCE Economic Forum in 2006, to which the UNECE is expected to contribute.

Following the discussions held at the Bureau meeting in June 2005, the Committee will be informed whether the UNECE contribution on the environment to the above review could be coordinated with the preparations of the Belgrade Report for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2007.

The Committee may wish to discuss how best enhance coordination to meet both commitments.

(c) The UNECE review

The secretariat will inform the Committee on the outcome of the UNECE review prepared by a team of external evaluators. The Committee may wish to discuss its recommendations and their implications for the environmental activities of the UNECE.

Item 3: Programme of work (2006-2007)

The Committee will review its programme of work (ECE/CEP/126 Add.1) and take decisions on each programme element and related activities, also on the basis of the outcome of the Bureau meeting held on 8 June 2005 (CEP/2005/4). It will also consider the information on regular and extra budgetary resources (ECE/CEP/126/Add.2) as shown against each cluster of activity within the Environment subprogramme.

(a) Education for sustainable development (12–1 p.m.)

The secretariat will inform the Committee about the outcomes of the High-level Meeting held in Vilnius on 17 and 18 March 2005, including the adoption of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (CEP/AC.13/2005/3/Rev.1) and the Vilnius framework for the implementation of the Strategy (CEP/AC.13/2005/4/Rev.1). The main outcomes of the meeting are summarized in the report (CEP/AC.13/2005/2) and in the Chair's summary (CEP/AC.13/2005/5). The Committee will also be informed on the preparations for the first meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 13 and 14 December 2005 back to back with the Regional Implementation Forum (CEP/AC.13/2005/6).

The Committee may wish to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the Strategy and to enhancing the coordination between the two sectors in view of the future work of the Steering Committee.

(b) Environmental performance reviews (3-6 p.m.)

(i) Environmental performance reviews of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova

The Committee will review the environmental performance of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/countriesreviewed.htm>) by conducting a peer review. To that end the outcome of the discussion on the draft report on the environmental performance of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, held during the Expert Group's meeting (4-7 October 2005), will be presented. The Committee is expected to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations.

(ii) Major policy issues emerging from the environmental performance reviews

The Committee may wish to hold in-depth discussions on major policy issues emerging from the environmental performance reviews of the Republic of Moldova and Belarus, as outlined in document (CEP/2005/7). It may also wish to consider the progress these countries have made on issues such as enforcement of and compliance with environmental legislation and related mechanisms, and the management of eco-funds.

(iii) Interim report on the implementation of environmental performance reviews

At its tenth session the Committee requested eligible Member States to present voluntary interim reports for discussion by the Committee.

Tuesday, 11 October 2005

Continued item 3(b) (10–11 a.m.)

(iv) Second round of reviews

The secretariat will present a concept paper on the second round of reviews (CEP/2005/6) analysing the experience gained so far in carrying out these reviews and suggesting options for improving the current presentation and adjusting the contents of the second reports.

The Committee may wish to discuss and agree on how the second round of reviews should be conducted, and decide on its future presentation and contents.

(c) Communication strategy (11-11.30 a.m.)

The Committee may wish to consider and endorse the revised draft strategy, in the light of the discussion held with stakeholders on 7 June 2005 (CEP/2005/5) and taking into account the recommendations formulated by the Bureau at its meeting of 8 June.

The strategy once endorsed will subsequently be submitted for adoption to the Working Group of Senior Officials, at its first session in October 2005.

(d) Environmental monitoring (11.30–12 a.m.)

The Committee may wish to consider the information provided on the outcome of the meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA), held on 2 and 3 June 2005, in particular as regards approaches to the preparation of the Belgrade Assessment report and the draft work plan of the Working Group up to the Belgrade Conference, which includes also resource requirements, as requested by the Committee at its last session (CEP/AC.10/2005/2).

It may also wish to discuss and provide guidance on ways to further improve monitoring and assessment capacities in the UNECE region, particularly in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(e) UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (12.30-3.30 p.m.)

(i) Ongoing activities related to the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements which need special attention

The secretariat will inform the Committee of key developments and activities under the UNECE conventions highlighting the major achievements and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the conventions and their protocols.

(ii) Support to the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements

The Committee is expected to discuss the outcome of the informal consultation between the representatives of the Bureaux of the Committee and of the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions, held on 6 June 2005, which focused on: financial and human resources allocated for environmental activities within the UNECE; synergies between the UNECE environmental conventions at international and national levels; possible items for discussion/adoption at the 2007 Belgrade Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”; means for addressing Public Participation in international forums relevant to the environment including the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, adopted at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5/Annex). The meeting put forward issues for discussion at future meetings.

The Committee may wish to agree on the issues to be discussed at the next informal consultation to be held on 5 June 2006.

(f) Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) (3.30-4 p.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the meetings of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force on the implementation of the Strategy.

The Committee may wish to have a preliminary discussion on the preparations for a review of the Strategy’s implementation conducted by the EAP Task Force and on the UNECE’s contribution through the environmental performance reviews, the environmental monitoring activities as well as through the activities under the UNECE environmental conventions.

(g) Environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia (4-4.30 p.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the steps taken and problems encountered by the Central Asian countries in developing the partnership agreement and in carrying out practical activities to reach the objectives set in the Central Asian Initiative on Water, Environment and Security. The Committee will be informed in particular about the outcome of the regional workshop “Problems and Perspectives of Regulatory Base Development Related to Water Quality in the Countries of Central Asia and Caucasus”.

The Committee may wish to discuss how to strengthen the partnership agreement.

(h) Activities of the Regional Adviser and his contribution to the Committee's programme of work (4.30-5 p.m.)

The UNECE Regional Adviser for the environment will provide a short overview of his work related to the Committee's programme of work. As requested by the Committee's Bureau, the Regional Adviser will also report, on the basis of his experience, on how the EECCA countries implement the EECCA Strategy, and in particular on their achievements and the difficulties they have encountered so far.

The Committee may wish to discuss the presentation and make proposals related to the work of the Regional Adviser.

(i) Other cross-sectoral activities (5-5.30 p.m.)

(i) The Transport, Environment and Health Pan-European Programme

The secretariat will briefly inform the Committee briefly about the outcome of the third session of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), held in April 2005. It will report, in particular, on the discussions concerning the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment to be held in 2007 (ECE/AC.21/2005/13).

The Committee may wish to discuss how best to strengthen synergies between the events planned for 2007, i.e. the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", the WHO mid-term review meeting on "Environment and Health" as well as the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment.

(ii) Environment and Health

The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) meetings, held in January and June 2005 respectively (<http://www.euro.who.int/eehc>), and in particular about the fulfilment of the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment (Budapest, June 2004), related notably to the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) that was adopted by the Conference.

The Committee may take note of the information.

Wednesday, 12 October 2005

Item 4: Preparation of the "Environment for Europe" Conference in Belgrade (10-11.30 a.m.)

The Committee may wish to have a preliminary discussion on issues to be included into the agenda of the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO).

Item 5: Financial assistance to countries with economies in transition and countries' contributions to the UNECE trust funds (11.30-11.45 a.m.)

The Committee will be informed about the current status of the trust funds. Donor countries are invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds and agree on the updated criteria for financial assistance (Informal document no 1).

Item 6: Any other business (11.45–12 a.m.)

Delegations may wish to raise any other point relevant to the meeting.

Item 7: Election of officers for the thirteenth session (12-12.30 p.m.)

The Committee is expected to elect a chairperson and members of its Bureau.

Item 8: Closing of the twelfth session (12.30-1 p.m.)

The Chairman, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Committee's conclusions and decisions. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat will finalize the report of the twelfth session for circulation to the Member countries.

* * *

For advance copies, please visit the Committee's web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/>)



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