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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Twelfth session,  
(Geneva, 10-12 October 2005)  
(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION**  
**Addendum**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2007**

**Introduction**

1. This note provides information to assist the Committee in discussing and establishing its programme of work, the duration of each activity, as well as its methods of work. The Committee's Bureau met in June 2005 to review the programme of work and will meet shortly prior to the Committee's twelfth session.
2. When discussing its programme of work, the Committee may wish to keep in mind that the programme should reflect the real commitment of member countries and their willingness to contribute to its implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources.
3. At the Committee's twelfth session, the secretariat will report on the Trust Fund's expenditures and balance in 2005. Through the Trust Fund, representatives from eligible countries can receive support to attend the Committee's session. The Trust Fund needs to be maintained at a level that allows high participation. It is, therefore, important that countries continue to make general contributions to the Trust Fund.
4. The Committee's thirteenth session is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 9 to 11 October 2006.

### **Proposed decisions by the Committee**

5. The Committee may wish to:
- (a) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the strategic goals set in the “Future UNECE strategic directions for the environment” (CEP/2003/25);
  - (b) Discuss and adopt its programme of work for 2006-2007, as presented below;
  - (c) Call upon Governments to make contributions to the Trust Fund.

### **SUBPROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENT**

The Committee on Environmental Policy represents a consensus-based policy forum for discussing environmental issues and bringing forward regional priorities in the UNECE region. It carries out its work in accordance with its terms of reference as adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

At its tenth session (20-22 October 2003), the Committee adopted a series of strategic goals to help structure and adapt its programme of work for the next five to ten years (CEP/2003/25).

The specific activities in the draft programme of work for 2006-2007, submitted for adoption by the Committee at its twelfth session, relate to the following main processes and strategic goals:

1. Preparation of the sixth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Belgrade in 2007.  
*(Goal 1: Contributing to the “Environment for Europe” process)*
2. Environmental performance reviews (EPRs) and environmental monitoring.  
*(Goal 2: Improving environmental governance)*
3. Follow-up and support to the regional environmental conventions and protocols.  
*(Goal 3: Improving effectiveness of international legal instruments)*
4. Regional follow-up to Agenda 21 and to the Johannesburg Plan of Action.  
*(Goal 5: Contributing to regional implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development).*
5. Promotion of cross-sectoral synergies through cooperation with other ECE principal subsidiary bodies and international organizations.  
*(Goal 4: Integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies)*

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1**

### ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

The EPR programme will continue its second cycle of reviews on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Kiev Conference and the Committee. All countries that are member States of UNECE, but not members of OECD, are eligible for reviews. The second review should take into account the particular needs of countries as decided in Kiev, emphasizing integration (sustainable development), implementation and financing. The second round of reviews is also being used to support the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

Furthermore, in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its tenth session, the reviewed countries are invited to provide, on a voluntary basis, interim reports on the implementation of the first review's recommendations within three years of the conclusion of the first review.

#### Work accomplished

At its eleventh session, the Committee renewed the mandate of the EPR Expert Group for the next biennium, allowing it to continue to offer advice and support on the preparation for and the conduct of the EPRs, to carry out detailed expert reviews of EPRs, prior to the Committee's peer review, and to report on them to the Committee.

The UNECE carried out the second environmental performance review of Belarus in September 2004 and that of the Republic of Moldova in April 2005.

#### Work to be undertaken

The EPR Expert Group will carry out an expert review of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova in October 2005 and will report on it at the twelfth session of the Committee, for the peer review of these countries. The Committee will also discuss the two major policy issues emerging from the two reviews, i.e. the mechanisms for compliance and enforcement and the management of eco-funds.

Before pursuing further its second cycle of reviews, the Committee will consider various options prepared by the secretariat on the structure of these reviews to consolidate the content and presentation of the EPR reports, in accordance with the recommendations of the fifth "Environment for Europe" Conference in Kiev.

A second review is planned for Ukraine (2005-2006) and Armenia (2006). Additional requests for a second round of reviews during 2006-2007, as well as interim implementation reports on the progress made in the environmental situation and management in countries since the first review, are also expected.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2**

### EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the Kiev Conference, Ministers agreed on the preparation of a UNECE strategy for education for sustainable development, and invited UNECE to work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe on a regional strategy for education for sustainable development.

Pursuant to the decision taken in Kiev, the Committee on Environmental Policy, at its tenth session, set up an open-ended task force to develop such strategy under the joint chairmanship of Sweden and the Russian Federation and with the participation of representatives from environmental and educational authorities, as well as from UNESCO, the Council of Europe, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The Committee discussed the draft strategy prepared by the Task Force at its eleventh session.

#### **Work accomplished**

Following the decision of the Committee, at its eleventh session, a High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (or equivalent national body responsible for education) was convened in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 17 and 18 March 2005. The meeting adopted by acclamation a UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a practical instrument for promoting sustainable development through education. It also adopted the Vilnius Framework for Implementation, under which a Steering Committee on ESD and an expert group on indicators were set up to facilitate coordination and review of the Strategy's implementation.

The Meeting also launched the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region.

#### **Work to be undertaken**

The Steering Committee on ESD will hold its first meeting on 13 and 14 December 2005 to establish its programme of work and to exchange good practices in the implementation of education for sustainable development programmes and policies. The Expert Group on indicators is expected to produce a set of indicators for assessing the effectiveness of the Strategy's implementation.

The CEP will be informed about the progress made in the implementation of the joint activities and will provide the necessary support for enhancing the coordination between the two sectors.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3**

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment will continue strengthening environmental information and observation capacities in EECCA focusing on

areas that were emphasized by Ministers in Kiev, in particular the monitoring component of the Environment Strategy for EECCA. It will contribute to the fourth assessment report on the state of the environment for the next "Environment for Europe" Conference in Belgrade.

### Work accomplished

The online catalogue listing national periodicals on the environment in EECCA countries and the environmental reports submitted by these countries to international bodies, was set up on the Working Group's web site following the ReportNet system of the European Environmental Agency (EEA). A roundtable on enterprise monitoring and reporting was organized. Progress was made in the preparation of a manual on the application of environmental indicators in EECCA countries.

At its fifth session (2-3 June 2005), the Working Group reviewed the draft table of contents for the Belgrade assessment report and made arrangements to support the preparation of the report and to better coordinate it with the assessment and data collection activities undertaken in other international forums. The Working Group also agreed on its work programme.

### Work to be undertaken

Subject to the availability of extra budgetary resources, the Working Group will:

(a) Support the preparation of the Belgrade assessment report by: (i) providing overall guidance and review; (ii) assisting the EEA in data collection; and (iii) ensuring coordination with other international environmental assessments and data collection activities of relevance to the Belgrade assessment report;

(b) Continue strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting capacities in EECCA by: (i) finalizing the manual on the application of key environmental indicators; (ii) preparing, as a next step and on the basis of the manual, recommendations to governments on the adaptation of monitoring networks to international reporting requirements; (iii) preparing practical guidelines for EECCA on legal, regulatory, institutional, financial and technical measures to improve enterprise monitoring and reporting; (iv) assisting those countries that have not set mechanisms for periodic state-of-the-environment reporting to do so using the Guidelines endorsed by the Kiev Ministerial Conference; (v) developing further the EcoReporting electronic catalogue; and (vi) coordinating capacity-building activities by EEA and other institutions concerned under the second Tacis monitoring project.

Details of specific activities are annexed to document CEP/AC.10/2005/2.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4**

### COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

To comply with the mandate given by the Ministers in Kiev, the Committee is developing a communication strategy to raise awareness of the environmental problems in the

UNECE region and to increase the visibility of the “Environment for Europe” process as a policy framework for environment-related initiatives in the region. The communication strategy will be prepared in consultation with all the major stakeholders.

#### Work accomplished

At its eleventh session, the Committee discussed a draft of the strategy prepared by a consultant to the secretariat. It invited the secretariat to fully involve stakeholders from international and non-governmental organizations in the further development of the strategy as well as in its future implementation. To this end, a meeting with the stakeholders and the members of the Bureau was organized on 7 June 2005. The draft strategy and the outcome of the stakeholders’ meeting were also discussed by the Bureau at its meeting on 8 June 2005.

#### Work to be undertaken

At its twelfth session, the Committee is invited to consider and endorse the draft strategy that has been revised on the basis of the outcome of the meeting held with stakeholders and the Bureau and to submit it, once endorsed, to the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) for adoption at its meeting in October 2005.

The WGSO may consider the proposal to set up a drafting group for preparing a plan for the implementation of the Strategy. The proposed working group would be expected to prepare a draft for adoption by the WGSO or its Executive Committee during 2006.

The secretariat will continue to post documents for the Committee’s sessions and related to the “Environment for Europe” process on the web site and will update its media contact points.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 5**

#### **FOLLOW-UP AND SUPPORT TO THE UNECE ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS**

Since the 1970s, five regional environmental conventions have been negotiated and adopted within the framework of UNECE. The responsibility for the implementation activities lies with the governing bodies.

With the entry into force of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication, and Ground-level Ozone, on 17 May 2005, all the eight protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution have also entered into force. The Protocol on Water and Health is expected to enter into force on 4 August 2005. The three protocols adopted at the Kiev Ministerial Conference, on Strategic Environmental Assessment; Civil Liability and Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters; and on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers are not yet in force.

The Committee's role is to offer a catalysing forum in which all government representatives, including the governing bodies of the conventions, can share their experience in promoting and assessing the implementation of these regional environmental instruments, and identify means of improving compliance with them. Furthermore, the Committee supports, as appropriate, the implementation of the conventions and their protocols.

### Work accomplished

A fourth informal meeting between the Bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and of the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions was held on 6 June 2005, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy, to continue sharing experiences and seeking synergies and areas of cooperation, to assess and promote the implementation of the environmental legal instruments in the region.

In line with the recommendations from the previous meeting, the informal discussions focused in particular on: (a) financial and human resources allocated for environmental activities within the UNECE; (b) synergies between the UNECE environmental conventions at both international and national levels; (c) possible items to be negotiated or prepared for discussion or adoption at the 2007 Belgrade Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"; and (d) means for addressing public participation in international forums relevant to the environment.

### Work to be undertaken

It is envisaged that informal meetings between the Bureaux of the Committee and of the governing bodies of the conventions will continue to be organized on an annual basis. The next informal meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5 June 2006 and will focus primarily on preparations for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference and on the outcome of, and follow-up to, the second regional implementation forum on sustainable development.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6**

### **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR EASTERN EUROPE, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECCA)**

The Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) aims at strengthening the efforts of the EECCA countries in environmental protection and at facilitating partnerships and cooperation between these and other countries and stakeholders in the UNECE region.

The Ministers in Kiev invited the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force) to lead efforts to facilitate and support the achievement of the objectives of the Strategy in cooperation with other relevant international bodies and Regional Environmental Centres (RECs). The EAP Task Force, in cooperation with relevant international bodies, and on the basis of information provided by the EECCA countries, was requested to keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed about progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

### Work accomplished

A Conference of Environment Ministers from the EECCA countries and their Partners was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 20 and 21 October 2004. The Conference discussed the action programmes and partnerships elaborated since the Kiev Conference to implement the EECCA Environment Strategy aiming at providing further impetus for their development and implementation.

The EAP Task Force has set up a framework for measuring progress in the implementation of the Environment Strategy.

### Work to be undertaken

The EECCA countries will continue to be the main focus of the technical assistance provided by the UNECE. The implementation of the EECCA Strategy is also promoted through the environmental performance review programme, environmental monitoring activities and the work under the environmental conventions. Relevant ongoing and planned activities in the subregion include the action programme for the development of transboundary water cooperation in the EECCA region under the work programme of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

The EAP Task Force will report to the Committee on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy as well as other relevant information.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 7**

### ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SECURITY INITIATIVE IN CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asian countries launched the Initiative on Environment, Water and Security at the Kiev Conference. The Ministers in Kiev recommended starting preparations for a partnership agreement on transboundary water problems, environment and security in Central Asia, as part of the follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and as a contribution to the EU Water Initiative and other water initiatives in the region. The Committee will provide a forum for exchanging information and discussing progress in the implementation of related activities.

### Work accomplished

Since the Kiev Conference, the countries in the region and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) have sought to ensure political support for the Initiative through, for instance, signing a memorandum of understanding with the European Union on cooperation with the EU Water Initiative. At its eleventh session, the Committee was also informed about a number of other activities and projects that have been foreseen and initiated for implementing this Initiative.

### Work to be undertaken

The UNECE will continue to support the Central Asian Initiative, in particular through provision of technical assistance, in collaboration with other partner organizations, in water-

related and other issues. Relevant projects include: work on dam safety; implementation of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; support to the development of transboundary water cooperation in the Chu-Talas water basin, and work on air quality management and clean coal technology.

Further work on the development of a partnership agreement, as outlined in the Initiative, will also be supported as far as possible.

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 8**

### **INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SECTORAL POLICIES**

Integrating environmental concerns into the activities of other sectors, whether economic or social, is one of the key challenges for the effective implementation of environmentally sound sustainable development principles. Since the Rio Conference, actions and programmes in the UNECE region have moved towards that goal, but significant efforts are still needed through a wide range of policy, legal, institutional and financial measures and incentives.

The Committee on Environmental Policy has established cross-sectoral linkages, activities and cooperation with other UNECE committees (e.g. human settlements and transport) and between it and the conventions' governing bodies, as well as with other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization's Office for Europe (WHO/EURO). UNECE environmental cross-sectoral programmes should be further encouraged to ensure effective support for national and regional initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development.

#### **8.1. TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

The WHO/UNECE Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) aims at promoting sustainable transport in the region through specific activities with a special focus on promotion of policy integration and more sustainable means of transport in urban areas. In implementing its work plan, THE PEP Steering Committee pays special attention to the needs of the countries in EECCA and South-East Europe as well as those of ecologically sensitive areas in the region.

#### **Work accomplished**

At its third session (11-12 April 2005), THE PEP Steering Committee assessed the progress made in the implementation of its work programme (2003-2005), adopted a new work programme, extending to 2007, and provided guidance on its implementation. In addition, the Steering Committee held preliminary discussions on the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health to be convened in 2007.

### Work to be undertaken

The progress achieved in the implementation of the programme of work will be reassessed by THE PEP Steering Committee at its third session, scheduled for 10-11 April 2006.

The Committee on Environmental Policy is invited to further encourage support and coordinated efforts from the transport, environment and health sectors for the implementation of THE PEP, and in particular for the preparation of the High-level Meeting to be held in 2007.

## 8.2. ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

WHO/EURO Ministerial Conferences have been organized since 1989 and bring together Ministers of Health and Environment and other stakeholders, in order to reach consensus and make political commitments towards promoting a safe and healthy environment.

### Work accomplished

At its eleventh session, the Committee was informed about the outcome of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, that took place in Budapest from 23 to 25 June 2004. In Budapest, the Ministers adopted a Conference Declaration, which summarizes commitments by member States to specific environment and health issues across Europe, as well as to the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) that provides a framework for developing member States' plans and policies on health and the environment.

The Ministers entrusted the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) with following up on their decisions and serving as a steering committee for the preparation of the next Conference. At its eleventh session, the Committee on Environmental Policy elected its representatives from the environment sector to the EEHC.

### Work to be undertaken

Following the Budapest Conference, EEHC should continue its activities in accordance with an output-based work plan and report annually on progress made to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

The EEHC held two meetings in 2005. The second, held in Copenhagen in June 2005, focused on the CEHAPE regional priority goal 3, namely "Preventing and reducing respiratory disease due to outdoor and indoor air pollution". The next meeting has been preliminarily scheduled to take place in Finland, on 12 and 13 December 2005, to discuss the regional priority goal 4 on reducing the health risks arising from exposure to hazardous chemicals, physical and biological agents and hazardous working environments.

The Ministers in Budapest invited the WHO to convene an intergovernmental meeting to carry out a mid-term review of the process in 2007. It was decided that the fifth Ministerial Conference would be held in Italy in 2009.

Close contacts will be established between the European Environment and Health Committee and the "Environment for Europe" WGSO.