



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/124/Add.1  
14 January 2004

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**REPORT ON THE ELEVENTH SESSION**  
**Addendum**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2005-2006**

**SUBPROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENT**

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy represents a consensus-based policy forum for discussing environmental issues and bringing forward regional priorities in the UNECE region, and carries out its work in accordance with its terms of reference as adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
2. 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).
3. The specific activities in the programme of work for 2005-2006, adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, relate to the following strategic goals:
  - Goal 1: Contributing to the “Environment for Europe” process  
*(Programme activities 1, 2 and 3)*
  - Goal 2: Improving environmental governance  
*(Programme activities 4 and 5)*
  - Goal 3: Making international legal instruments more effective  
*(Programme activity 6)*
  - Goal 4: Integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies  
*(Programme activities 7, 8, 9 and 10)*

Goal 5: Contributing to regional implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

*(Programme activity 11)*

## GOAL 1: CONTRIBUTING TO THE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” PROCESS

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1

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

The Ministers in Kiev adopted the Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) - Strategic framework - to contribute to improving environmental conditions and to implementing the World Summit's Plan of Implementation in the subregion, by strengthening the efforts of the EECCA countries in environmental protection and by facilitating partnership and cooperation between these countries and other countries of the UNECE region, including all stakeholders.

The Ministers 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 Strategy should be implemented in close cooperation with the secretariats of regional environmental agreements and the environmental performance review (EPR) programme. 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 on progress in achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

#### Work accomplished:

On 6-7 October 2003 a joint meeting of the EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee was held to discuss the role of the EAP Task Force in facilitating the achievement of the EECCA Strategy's objectives. For this meeting and subsequent work of the EAP Task Force, UNECE prepared background papers on planned and potential activities related to the EECCA objectives (monitoring, education, public participation, transport, water management and energy). UNECE also participated in a meeting with supporting organizations and the EAP Task Force in Paris in April 2004.

At its eleventh session, the Committee was informed by its Chairman and the representative of the EAP Task Force of the preparations for the ministerial meeting (Kiev + 1) in Georgia on 21-22 October 2004, back to back with the joint meeting of the EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee, to discuss action programmes and partnerships worked out since the Kiev Conference to implement the EECCA Environment Strategy and to provide additional impetus for their development and implementation.

Work to be undertaken:

The ongoing and planned activities in the subregion, including the UNECE environmental performance reviews, environmental monitoring and assessment and the technical assistance provided by the UNECE regional adviser, will continue to be linked to the implementation of the EECCA Strategy to the extent possible. Examples include an action programme for the development of transboundary water cooperation in EECCA that has been developed under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

The EAP Task Force will report to the Committee on progress in the implementation of the Strategy and on the outcome of the meeting of EECCA ministers and partners in October 2004. The UNECE conventions' secretariats will also report on their activities related to the EECCA Strategy.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2ENVIRONMENT, 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. Donor countries and international organizations were requested to support the Central Asian countries to fund activities to reach these objectives.

The Committee will provide a forum for exchanging information and discussing progress.

Work accomplished:

Since the Kiev Conference, the countries in the region and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) have worked to ensure political support for the Initiative. For example, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the European Union on cooperation with the EU Water Initiative. A few activities led by CAREC have also been initiated to this end.

The Committee was informed, at its tenth and eleventh sessions, about the steps taken by the Central Asian countries to develop the Initiative into a partnership agreement and to develop activities contributing to its objectives. These objectives include: strengthening cooperation to protect water-basin ecosystems, using water rationally and improving governance to ensure this subregion's sustainable development and its security. A series of related consultations and workshops to this end have been organized in 2004.

Work to be undertaken:

UNECE will continue to support the development of the Central Asian Initiative, in particular with technical assistance in the water and other sectors and the preparation of a partnership agreement to support sustainable development in the region.

In order to ensure adequate support from international partners for the Initiative, the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development in Central Asia has proposed to hold a special meeting in 2005, in connection with its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

To comply with the mandate given by 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 in setting a policy framework for the environment-related initiatives in the region. The communication strategy will be prepared in consultation with all major stakeholders.

Work accomplished:

Taking into account the discussions held by the Committee at its tenth session, a consultant was appointed to prepare a draft extended outline with the assistance of the secretariat and in consultation with relevant NGOs and international organizations. The Bureau considered the draft outline at its meeting in June 2004 and provided feedback.

At its eleventh session, the Committee welcomed the draft document prepared by the consultant as a good basis for further work and invited the consultant to revise it on the basis of the comments that it made and the guidance given during the discussion.

Work to be undertaken:

In line with the decision of the Committee, at its eleventh session, a meeting with major stakeholders, substantive experts and communication professionals nominated by member countries will be held back to back with the meeting of its Bureau to further develop the strategy.

Following further discussions on the draft strategy by the Committee at its twelfth session and by its Bureau at its subsequent meetings, the draft strategy is expected to be submitted for adoption by the Committee at its thirteenth session in October 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 update its media contact points.

## GOAL 2: IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

The Ministers at the fifth “Environment for Europe” Conference reaffirmed their support for the EPR programme and agreed that the programme should continue to assist eligible countries in transition (countries that are member States of UNECE but not members of OECD) to assess progress, to promote policy dialogue through peer reviews, to help stimulate greater accountability and to offer the Governments concerned tailor-made recommendations on how to reduce the overall pollution burden. It was recommended furthermore that the first round of reviews should be completed and the second round proceed. Second reviews have already been undertaken in Bulgaria (2000) and Estonia (2001)

In addition, at its tenth session, the Committee decided to request reviewed countries, on a voluntary basis, to provide an interim report to it on the implementation of the first review’s recommendations within three years of the conclusion of that review.

#### Work accomplished:

With the exception of Turkmenistan, which has not requested to be reviewed, the first round of environmental performance reviews was concluded with the environmental performance review of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2003 and of Tajikistan in March - April 2004. Subsequent to the peer reviews of these two countries, the Committee adopted the environmental performance reviews and recommendations at its eleventh session, as amended by the EPR Expert Group at its meeting in September 2004.

At its eleventh session the Committee took note of the interim reports presented by Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the implementation of the first reviews’ recommendations.

The Committee also extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance for two years and adopted its [terms of reference](#) and elected its members.

#### Work to be undertaken:

The EPR programme will continue on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Kiev Conference and the Committee. The second reviews should take into account the particular needs of countries as decided in Kiev, emphasizing the integration of environmental concerns into other sectors, implementation and financing. The second reviews are also being used as tools to support the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The secretariat of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe therefore agreed to participate in EPR reviews, when relevant.

A second review of Belarus will be finalized (2004-2005) and another will take place in the Republic of Moldova (2005). Additional requests for second reviews during 2005 are expected.

Following the renewal of the EPR Expert Group's mandate by the Committee, at its eleventh session, the Group will continue to offer advice and support to the preparations for, and conduct of, EPRs. It will also carry out a detailed expert review of each EPR prior to the Committee's peer review and report on it to the Committee.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 5

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

The Kiev Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" supported the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring, particularly its activities on strengthening the environmental information and observation capacity in the 12 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Ministers requested that the cooperation framework provided by the Working Group should be further developed and invited donors to support the Working Group.

The Working Group will contribute to the preparation of the fourth assessment report on the state of the environment for the next "Environment for Europe" Conference in Belgrade. It will continue strengthening the 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.

#### Work accomplished:

At its eleventh session, the Committee was informed of the results of three workshops. The first workshop was organized in Geneva in November 2003 jointly by the Working Group and the European Environment Agency (EEA) to evaluate the results of the Tacis project on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity in EECCA and to consider a follow-up. Recommendations were prepared on: (a) air emissions inventories and atmospheric air pollution monitoring and modelling for the new Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and (b) improving waste classification and inventory systems in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. A trial compendium was prepared on environmental indicators from the core set selected by EECCA countries. The Working Group supported the publication of a trilingual (Armenian, English and Russian) state-of-the-environment report of Armenia as a case study for the application of the Guidelines for the preparation of governmental reports on the state and protection of the environment (ECE/CEP/113) endorsed in Kiev. A bilingual (English-Russian) compact disc, Environmental monitoring and assessment: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, was produced. It combined the main analytical reports and recommendations developed by the Working Group since its inception.

A second workshop was organized in May 2004 in Moscow to evaluate and to consider a follow-up to two electronic databases on the Working Group's web site, one on officials

responsible for the main environmental data flows in EECCA, and the other on environmental data sources in EECCA.

A third workshop, held in Chisinau in July 2004, developed a draft manual for the application of a core set of environmental indicators in EECCA.

Work to be undertaken:

The Working Group will build on the results achieved so far and will give priority to the specific areas listed in its terms of reference. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, it will:

(a) Contribute to the new assessment report to be prepared by EEA for the next “Environment for Europe“ Conference. This will include, in particular, reviewing a draft outline of the report, assisting in data collection in EECCA countries and reviewing the report’s draft chapters and executive summary;

(b) Promote the establishment, on its web site, of an online catalogue of national periodicals on the environment (state-of-the-environment reports, environmental statistics bulletins, etc.) and environmental reports submitted to international bodies like governing bodies of multilateral environmental conventions. It will follow the ReportNet system of EEA and ensure access online to the publications and reports referred to in the catalogue;

(c) Finalize and test the manual on the application of the core set of environmental indicators in EECCA with recommendations on data collection, measurement and calculation methods and with references to relevant international standards, policy targets and methodologies. The manual should assist in improving environmental reporting in EECCA countries and harmonizing their environmental assessments with those of EEA countries as well as facilitate data gathering for future regional environmental assessment reports to be prepared for the “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences;

(d) Prepare guidelines for EECCA on integrated environmental monitoring and assessments including requirements for monitoring networks, standards and formats, inter-agency cooperation, information management and reporting.

The Working Group will report to the Committee, at its sessions, on the progress in implementing its activities.

### GOAL 3: MAKING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS MORE EFFECTIVE

#### PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6

#### PROMOTING SYNERGIES AND SHARING EXPERIENCE AMONG THE UNECE ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

Since the 1970s, five regional environmental conventions have been negotiated and adopted within the framework of UNECE.

All five have entered into force and their governing bodies carry responsibility for the work. Seven of the eight protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution are currently in force. The Protocol on Water and Health and the three protocols adopted at the Kiev Ministerial Conference have not yet entered into 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 provides support, as appropriate, to make the implementation of the conventions and their protocols more effective.

#### Work accomplished:

A third informal meeting between the Bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and of the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions was held in June 2004, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy, to continue sharing experiences and finding synergies and areas of cooperation to assess and promote the implementation of the environmental legal instruments in the region.

At its eleventh session, the Committee was informed of the outcome of the informal consultations. The Committee welcomed the proposed topics for discussion for the next informal meeting and agreed on its date.

#### 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 a regular basis.

The next informal meeting is scheduled for 6 June 2005 and will focus primarily on financial and human resources available for the implementation of the UNECE environmental legal instruments. The Committee will be informed about the outcome of the meeting.

## GOAL 4: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INTO SECTORAL POLICIES

### ENHANCING CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

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 and 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, transport,

and sustainable energy) 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.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 7

### 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 in selected priority areas. In implementing its work programme, THE PEP Steering Committee pays special attention to the needs of the countries in EECCA and South-East Europe as well as to ecologically particularly sensitive areas of the region. The Committee on Environmental Policy provides a forum for exchanging information and discussing progress in promoting sustainable transport. In addition, it can, through its delegations, further encourage coordinated efforts from the transport, environment and health sectors for the implementation of THE PEP.

#### Work accomplished:

The Committee on Environmental Policy was informed of the outcome of the second session of THE PEP Steering Committee held on 29-30 March 2004 to assess the progress made and to provide guidance in the implementation of its work programme for 2004-2005. THE PEP had been represented at the fourth Environment and Health Ministerial Conference in Budapest, through a ministerial round table on transport, environment and health, a side event on transport-related health impact and an exhibition stand with online demonstrations of its clearing house.

The Committee was given a brief account of the main activities that had been implemented under THE PEP, related notably to:

- The gradual development of an internet-based clearing house for disseminating information on transport, environment and health, and their integration;
- The promotion of sustainable urban travel policies, with for instance a workshop organized jointly with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation on "Implementing Sustainable Urban Travel Policies in Russia and other CIS Countries" (Moscow, 30 September - 1 October 2004);
- The analysis of health costs and the effects of transport, in particular on children.

#### Work to be undertaken:

THE PEP Steering Committee will continue implementing and following up the activities in its work programme mentioned above and start work on a number of new projects, involving notably: the provision of practical guidance on institutional arrangements and

mechanisms for integrated policy and decision-making; the dissemination of good practice to promote safe conditions for people to walk and cycle in urban areas.

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 11-12 April 2005.

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.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 8

### ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

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

The fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in Budapest from 23 to 25 June 2004. The next one will be held in Italy in 2009. The Committee on Environmental Policy actively participated in the preparations for the Budapest Conference through its members on the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), which also includes a representative of the UNECE secretariat. The UNECE secretariat was represented at the Conference in several side events and set up an exhibition stand.

At the Conference, Ministers adopted the Conference Declaration, summarizing commitments by member States to specific environment and health issues across Europe, and the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe as a framework for developing member States' plans and policies on health and the environment. A mid-term review of the implementation of these commitments is foreseen in 2007.

Close contacts were established between the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) and the Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe."

At the Budapest Conference, Ministers entrusted EEHC to follow up their decisions and to serve as steering committee for the preparations of the next Conference. At its eleventh session the Committee elected its EEHC members, as decided by Ministers at Kiev.

#### Work to be undertaken:

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

Furthermore, Ministers invited both Committees and their respective secretariats to consider the Declaration and its recommendations, and to give priority to activities and programmes in the area of health and the environment.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9

### ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The UNECE Environment Ministers at Kiev endorsed the Guidelines on Reforming Energy Pricing and Subsidies (ECE/CEP/103) prepared jointly by the UNECE Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy as a means of promoting action to progressively reduce and, where possible, remove energy price subsidies which counteract the efficient use of energy and/or have harmful effects on the environment. Furthermore, both Committees were invited to examine the role of economic instruments in promoting the use of renewable energy taking into account the work of OECD and other international organizations.

#### Work accomplished:

As a follow-up to decisions at the Kiev Ministerial Conference calling for further efforts to improve energy efficiency and promote renewable energy sources as a means of meeting environmental objectives, the Committee on Sustainable Energy recommended, at its thirteenth session in 2004, to include renewable energies in the Energy Efficiency 21 Project Programme.

#### Work to be undertaken:

The Committee on Environmental Policy may consider contributing to the work on renewable energy of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, particularly by nominating environmental experts to participate in this work and by staying informed of the follow-up to this activity.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 10

### EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the Kiev Conference, the Ministers decided on the development and finalization 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 a strategy. The preparatory process has been chaired by Sweden with the Russian Federation as vice-chair and serviced by the UNECE secretariat. Representatives from both the environment and education administrations were invited to participate in the work of the task force.

The strategy is intended to provide a flexible framework for action in education for sustainable development. Its implementation can be adapted to each country's priorities, specific needs and circumstances.

Work accomplished:

At its first meeting in February 2004, the task force adopted its terms of reference and its work programme. It also provided comments on the draft strategy that had been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the lead countries. The task force set up a drafting group to assist in preparing the final draft. The drafting group met three times and prepared a draft strategy taking into account the comments provided by member States and international and non-governmental organizations. The drafting group also prepared two background documents: one providing an overview of past and ongoing international processes on education for sustainable development, and another clarifying the terminology used in the strategy.

At its second meeting, in July 2004, the task force discussed, amended and approved the draft strategy for submission to the Committee. To facilitate the discussion by the Committee, the secretariat had prepared documents for the joint high-level meeting (CEP/2004/16) foreseen for 2005 and on the framework for the implementation of the strategy (CEP/2004/17).

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided to convene the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries on 17-18 March 2005 for final consideration of the strategy.

Work to be undertaken:

The Bureau of the Committee will be following the preparations of the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries carried out by the secretariat together with the host country Lithuania.

At its twelfth session, the Committee will discuss the progress achieved in the implementation of the programme activity, including its financial aspects, as decided at its eleventh session.

GOAL 5 : CONTRIBUTING TO THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 11

ASSESSING THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT'S COMMITMENTS

Building on Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa), the Commission on Sustainable Development invited the regional commissions to consider organizing regional implementation forums, within the framework of two-year action-oriented cycles. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy will play a key role in this process by strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development, in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations, bodies and NGOs.

Work accomplished:

The Committee assisted the region's Environment Ministers in highlighting the progress made in meeting sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints in two of the three thematic clusters, namely water and sanitation, as well as their cross-cutting issues, at the Regional Implementation Forum in January 2004. The Chair of the Forum presented her summary to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session (April 2004).

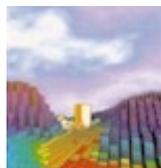
Work to be undertaken:

Assuming that the Commission on Sustainable Development would decide in favour of the continuation of the regional implementation meetings, the Committee requested the secretariat to start preparing as soon as possible for the next meeting, preliminarily scheduled for December 2005 or January 2006.

Considering the substantive themes for the next biennial implementation cycle, namely energy, industry, climate change and air pollution, it was felt that cooperation with other UNECE subsidiary bodies, as well as with other organizations, was necessary to strengthen cross-sectoral work.



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## Environmental Performance Reviews Programme

### Purpose and Structure

At its fourth session, in May 1997, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy noted with satisfaction the progress of the Environmental Performance Review programme and decided to establish an ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance, consisting of experts from ten countries, to provide guidance to the programme. The original mandate for the Expert Group was two years. It has subsequently been extended thrice: in 1999, at the CEP's sixth session, in 2001, at the Committee's eighth session and in 2004, at the Committee's eleventh session.

### Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance

#### A. Membership

1. The Expert Group should comprise 10 to 14 members, with due consideration to geographical balance among the countries in the region.
2. It is suggested that, when new members are chosen, due regard should be given to experts from countries that have recently been reviewed as well as to those that have undergone or soon will undergo second reviews.

#### B. Terms of reference

3. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy renews the mandate of the ad hoc UNECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance for a period of two years to:
  - (a) Carry out the expert review process prior to the peer review to be undertaken by the Committee on Environmental Policy;
  - (b) Provide guidance to the UNECE secretariat and the Committee on all substantive and organizational matters arising in the implementation of the UNECE programme of environmental performance reviews (EPRs); and
  - (c) Assist the UNECE secretariat in coordinating the UNECE EPR programme with processes under way in other international institutions that have a bearing on it, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) environmental performance review programme and its work in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
4. The guidance of the Expert Group to UNECE and the Committee will include:
  - (a) Identification of opportunities and requirements for improving the conduct of the EPRs;
  - (b) Assessment of environmental trends relevant to the EPR process in countries in transition, including the organization of regional and subregional joint meetings, seminars and workshops, where these are demand-driven;
  - (c) Review and improvement of the data and information used for the EPRs;
  - (d) Proposals on how to improve the adoption of the recommendations contained in the EPR country reports and their implementation.
5. The EPR Expert Group is elected by the Committee on Environmental Policy upon the recommendation of the Bureau. The secretariat will invite international institutions pursuing related work to participate in the work of the EPR Expert Group.
6. The EPR Expert Group determines its rules of procedure in accordance with the relevant provisions of its terms of reference and elects its chair.
7. The EPR Expert Group will report annually on its activities to the Committee on Environmental Policy, and may raise any issue with the Committee that it deems necessary for the implementation of its mandate.

### Current Membership

Mr. Karen Jenderedjian, Chair (Armenia); Mr. Alexander Rachevsky (Belarus); Ms. Vanya Grigorova (Bulgaria); Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia); Ms. Anneliese Looss (Germany); Ms. Gabriela Buzas (Hungary) Mr. Adriaan Oudeman (Netherlands); Ms. Ann-Sofi Israelson (Sweden); Mr. Jurg Schneider (Switzerland) and Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko (Uzbekistan).

The United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the World Health European Centre for Environment and Health, and OECD are also invited to participate in the meetings of the Expert Group.

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