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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
Sixth session
Geneva, 12–14 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 June*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the report of the fifth session
4. Guidelines on the application of environmental indicators
5. Support to the fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, also available from the website of the UNECE/ELHM Division (www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, no later than two weeks prior to the meeting, by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (to elizabeth.james@unece.org). 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 76307).

6. Adaptation of monitoring networks in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Air-quality monitoring
7. Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting
8. Other business

Annex 1. Conference Registration Form

Annex 2. Plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

II. EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Working Group is open to all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Other member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). In addition to the regular circulation, meeting documentation will be uploaded onto the Working Group's website:
www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/.

Monday, 12 June

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10 – 10.10 a.m.)

2. The Working Group is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Election of officers (10.10 – 10.25 a.m.)

3. According to its revised mandate, adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its tenth session in 2003 (ECE/CEP/116, para. 30 and annex I), the Working Group is expected to re-elect its Chair and Vice-Chair(s).

Item 3: Adoption of the report of the fifth session (10.25 – 10.35 a.m.)

4. The Working Group is invited to adopt the report as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2005/2.

Monday, 12 June – Tuesday, 13 June

Item 4: Guidelines on the application of environmental indicators (10.35 a.m. – 1 p.m., 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on Monday; 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday)

5. The Working Group will develop guidelines for the application of environmental indicators in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). These guidelines will be submitted to the Committee on Environmental Policy for adoption and subsequent transmission to the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007) for possible endorsement.

6. To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat will circulate draft guidelines prepared on the basis of the outcome of the Workshop on the Application of Environmental Indicators held on 5–6 July 2004 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova (CEP/AC.10/2005/4) and the decision taken by the Working Group on the matter at its fifth session (CEP/AC.10/2005/2, para. 23). For technical reasons the draft guidelines will be presented in a set of documents, as follows: “Introduction and Indicators on Climate Change” – ECE/CEP/10/2006/6; “Air Pollution and The Ozone Layer” – CEP/AC.10/2005/4, annex II); “Water” – ECE/CEP/10/2006/7; “Land and Biodiversity” – ECE/CEP/10/2006/8; “Agriculture and Waste” – ECE/CEP/10/2006/9; “Energy and Transport” – ECE/CEP/10/2006/10.

Tuesday, 13 June

Item 5: Support to the fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment (2.30 – 4.30 p.m.)

7. The Working Group will discuss the preparation by the European Environment Agency (EEA) of the assessment report for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” and capacity-building activities associated with the report’s preparation. It will also consider environmental assessment and data collection activities that have been initiated in other international forums and are of relevance to the Belgrade assessment.

8. Representatives of EEA will inform the Working Group about progress made in data collection and in drafting individual parts for the Belgrade assessment. They and representatives of other international organizations will report on the interactions between the preparation of the Belgrade report and other ongoing environmental assessment and data collection activities such as the fourth *Global Environment Outlook* report (GEO-4) by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the pan-European environment and health information system project of the World Health Organization/Europe, the 2006 Questionnaire on Environment Statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and UNEP, the progress report on the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy by the Task Force on the Environmental Action Programme, and the second *Environment Outlook* by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

9. Representatives of EEA will report on the latest discussions with the European Commission regarding the launching of the Tacis project (€1 million), which was expected to support the Belgrade report preparations in EECCA.

10. The Working Group will provide comments and discuss synergies between various assessment and data collection activities. It may consider assisting EEA in data collection at the country level, if necessary, and discuss modalities for reviewing the draft Belgrade assessment and its summary.

Tuesday, 13 June – Wednesday, 14 June

Item 6: Adaptation of monitoring networks in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Air-quality monitoring

(4.30 – 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday; 9.30 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday)

11. The Working Group, at its last session, agreed to assess existing environmental monitoring networks in EECCA and to advise on priority needs for expanding, optimizing and upgrading these networks, taking into account international requirements, guidelines and experiences (CEP/AC.10/2005/2, annex). At its sixth session, the Working Group is expected to start the appraisal with air-quality monitoring. To facilitate the discussions, the secretariat will circulate a report on the adaptation of air-quality monitoring networks in EECCA (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/3). Interested delegations from EECCA and EU countries will make presentations on experiences with the development and modernization of national air-quality networks and their harmonization with relevant international requirements and effective and cost-efficient practices applied in other parts of the UNECE region.

12. The Working Group is expected to comment on the report and the presentations made and to decide on the practicalities of developing recommendations to EECCA Governments on the matter.

Wednesday, 14 June

Item 7: Enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting

(11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 – 5.20 p.m.)

13. The Working Group will discuss experiences gained in UNECE subregions in establishing regulations and economic incentives as well as in the application of innovative information tools for database management and online reporting to facilitate environmental data flow from enterprises to environmental authorities for the purpose of national assessments and international reporting. A number of interested delegations, regional environmental authorities in EECCA countries, and big enterprises and companies in EECCA will present case studies demonstrating effective approaches, including legal requirements, institutional arrangements, guidelines and reporting indicators, to facilitate

environmental data reporting by enterprises as well as enterprises' good practices in the development of effective self-monitoring systems.

14. The delegation of Poland will report on the preparations for a workshop on enterprise environmental monitoring and reporting to be organized by the Working Group in cooperation with the EMEP Steering Body in Warsaw from 4 to 6 September 2006 at the invitation of, and with financial support by, the Government of Poland. The secretariat will circulate, for a preliminary exchange of views by delegations, draft guidelines that are intended for in-depth discussion at the workshop (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/4 and 5).

15. Delegations are invited to inform the Working Group about their expected representation (from both public authorities and enterprises) at, and their inputs to, the September workshop.

16. The Working Group will comment on the presentations and the draft guidelines. It may also decide on ways and means to further cooperate with regional environmental authorities and enterprises in EECCA countries on environmental monitoring and reporting. For instance, the organization of a workshop on regions' integrated environmental assessments and the establishment of an enterprise consultative group at the Working Group might be considered.

Item 8: Other business (5.20 – 5.30 p.m.)

17. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Annex 1



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA *Please Print*
Conference Registration Form Date

Please fax this completed form to Ms. Oksana Rott at: +41.22.9070107, and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva. An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

**Sixth Session Of The Working Group On Environmental Monitoring And Assessment
(Palais des Nations, Geneva, 12-14 June 2006)**

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms

Date Of Birth

 / /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

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