



**SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

BELGRADE, SERBIA  
10-12 October 2007

---

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

prepared by the UNECE secretariat



UNITED NATIONS





**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4  
13 February 2008

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Sixth Ministerial Conference  
“Environment for Europe”  
Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”**

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1-10	2
I. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA .....	11-15	3
II. ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION .....	16-21	4
A. State of the environment and monitoring and assessment	17-19	4
B. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews.....	20-21	4
III. JOINT SESSION ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT <sup>1</sup> .....	22-25	5
IV. BIODIVERSITY <sup>2</sup> .....	26-32	6

<sup>1</sup> A joint session of environment and education ministers from member States that adopted the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Vilnius (March 2005), and other interested member States.

<sup>2</sup> A roundtable of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and ministers from interested member States of the Council of Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the European ECO-Forum.

## CONTENTS (continued)

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
V. CAPACITY-BUILDING .....	33-40	7
A. Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development.....	34-37	7
B. South-East European perspectives .....	38-40	8
VI. PARTNERSHIPS .....	41-47	8
A. Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment? .....	42-44	8
B. Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes .....	45-47	9
VII. THE FUTURE OF THE PROCESS .....	48-52	9
VIII. CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE .....	53-55	10
Annex: List of Conference documents		12

**Introduction**

1. The Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (EfE) took place from 10 to 12 October 2007 in Belgrade.
2. The Conference was attended by delegates from 51 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the European Commission also participated. The Holy See was represented.
3. The secretariat was provided by UNECE.
4. The following units of the United Nations Secretariat and specialized agencies of the United Nations system participated: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP GRID-Arendal, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Bank, the World Health Organization’s Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

5. The following intergovernmental organizations and institutions were represented: Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21), the Council of Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Investment Bank, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Project Preparation Committee (PPC).

6. The following regional environmental centres participated: the Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus (REC Caucasus), the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE), the Regional Environmental Center for Moldova (REC Moldova), and the Regional Environmental Center for the Russian Federation (REC Russia).

7. Many other organizations and major groups, including academia, business, local authorities and NGOs were also represented. A list of participants is available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/welcome.html>).

8. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/8). The results of the Conference discussions are reflected in the Chair's Summary (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/9). To avoid duplication with these documents, the present report gives only a factual overview of the Conference sessions.

9. Texts of the keynote addresses and interventions made at the Conference will be provided as part of the Conference's proceedings (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/welcome.html>).

10. A list of Conference documents can be found in the annex to this report. Electronic versions of these documents are available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/wgso/Belgrade/documents.html>).

## **I. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

11. The Chair of the Conference, Mr. Saša Dragin, Minister of Environmental Protection, Serbia, opened the Conference and welcomed delegates. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda of the Conference as submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials, and the Conference adopted its agenda (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/1/Rev.1).

12. The President of Serbia, Mr. Boris Tadić, welcomed delegates in an opening address.

13. Mr. Sviatoslav Kurulenko, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection, Ukraine, passed the "Environment for Europe torch" from Kiev to Belgrade.

14. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary, UNECE, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP.

15. A performance featuring Serbian dancers culminated the opening session.

## **II. ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

16. The agenda item on assessment and implementation was divided into two sessions: (a) on “State of the environment and monitoring and assessment”; and (b) on “Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs)”.

### **A. State of the environment and monitoring and assessment**

17. This session was chaired by Mr. Dragin, who in his introductory remarks stated that environmental monitoring activities were a key component in assessing the state of the environment and its development trends, as well as in supporting the environmental policymaking process. He also stressed the importance of developing environmental indicators and building a shared pan-European environmental information system to ensure a harmonized and streamlined collection of information, with a view to producing comparable state of environment assessments both at the national and international levels. Mr. Dragin highlighted the indicator-based assessment report prepared by the EEA for the Ministerial Conferences “Environment for Europe” as an exceptional example of such an information system at the pan-European level.

18. Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, EEA, presented the main findings of the report “Europe’s Environment: the fourth assessment” (Belgrade Assessment) (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/10), prepared by the EEA in cooperation with UNECE and other partners.

19. Keynote addresses were given by Mr. Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union (EU)); Mr. Leonty Khoruzhik, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus; Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Environment, Finland; Mr. Yury Tsaturov, Special Assistant to the Head of the Federal Service on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet), the Russian Federation; Mr. Daniel Reifsnnyder, State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States; and Ms. Victoria Elias, Chair of the Co-ordination Board, European ECO-Forum.

### **B. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

20. The session was chaired by Mr. Raimonds Vejonis, Minister of Environmental Protection, Latvia. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Vejonis noted the important legislative work in the environmental field done in the UNECE region, including the five UNECE environmental Conventions, which together with their protocols form a substantial part of international environmental policy. He stressed that at present the main challenge was the implementation of these MEAs at the national level, together with ensuring the synergies between them to make them effective instruments that protect and improve the environment. The Kiev Guidelines<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Guidelines for strengthening compliance with and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in the ECE region (ECE/CEP/107).

continued to be a useful tool containing practical and comprehensive approaches to addressing difficulties vis-à-vis implementation of MEAs. Consideration of and decisions on the way forward regarding the MEAs should take into account the challenges and concerns identified in the relevant documents and reports prepared for the Conference. Mr. Vejonis underlined that the UNECE EPR process provided an important basis for evaluating progress made at the national level in protecting and improving the environment, with a view to identifying and adequately planning future actions and activities.

21. Keynote addresses were given by Mr. Dzhevdet Chakarov, Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgaria; Ms. Giuliana Gasparini, Director of Division, on behalf of Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment, Italy; Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Moldova; Mr. Kurulenko; and Ms. Rut Bízková, Deputy Minister of the Environment, the Czech Republic.

### **III. JOINT SESSION ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

22. The session was chaired by Mr. Spyridon Taliadouros, Deputy Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, Greece. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Taliadouros stressed the significance of education for sustainable development (ESD) being considered in such a high-level political forum: for the first time in the history of the EfE process, ministers from two sectors had come together for a joint decision, an encouraging signal for other sectors to cooperate in making sustainable development a reality. He also highlighted that due to the inclusive and complex nature of ESD, the key prerequisite for success in implementation was effective cooperation between different authorities as well as between authorities and stakeholders. Good progress in implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD had been achieved since the Vilnius High-level Meeting on ESD. Nevertheless, more efforts should be undertaken to further its implementation, in particular regarding the conceptual transition from environmental education to ESD and the inclusion of ESD in the national curricula and learning programmes.

23. A welcoming address was delivered by Mr. Zoran Loncar, the Minister of Education, Serbia. Keynote addresses were given by Mr. Edward Picco, Minister of Education, Canada; Ms. Agnieszka Bolesta, Undersecretary of State, on behalf of Mr. Jan Szyszko, Minister of the Environment, Poland; Mr. Alzhan Braliev, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan; Ms. Åsa-Brit Karlsson, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden; and Mr. Engelbert Ruoss, Director, Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, UNESCO.

24. Ms. Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands, presented the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3).

25. A joint Statement on ESD, expressing commitment to further implementation of the Strategy throughout its implementation phases, was adopted by acclamation (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.1). The mandate of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD to oversee the regional implementation of the Strategy was extended until 2015.

#### IV. BIODIVERSITY

26. The session on biodiversity was organized as a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion comprising the ministers of member States participating in the PEBLDS process as well as NGOs and others. The session was co-chaired by Ms. Helen Oddveig Bjørnøy, Minister of Environment, Norway; and Mr. Rob Wolters, Executive Director, European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC). In her introductory remarks, Ms. Bjørnøy stressed that loss of biodiversity was one of the most challenging and crucial issues in Europe today. She referred to the Belgrade Assessment, stating that the 2010 biodiversity target would be difficult to reach unless considerable additional efforts were made. Ms. Bjørnøy also stressed that the economic value of biodiversity was extremely high and that the loss of biodiversity was already exacting vast economic costs. The implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity should be accelerated and activities undertaken to enhance the visibility of values connected to biodiversity and the ecosystems.

27. Keynote addresses were delivered by Ms. Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands; and Ms. Bolesta on behalf of Mr. Szyszko.

28. The roundtable discussion was organized in two clusters, the first focused on “Managing biodiversity for human well-being in the twenty-first century”; and the second on “Society in nature, nature in society”.

29. At the roundtable discussion on “Managing biodiversity for human well-being in the twenty-first century”, keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Hussein Baghirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan; Mr. Robert Palmer, Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Council of Europe; Mr. Nikolay Sobolev, Biodiversity Conservation Centre, the Russian Federation; Ms. Liliana Josan, BIOTICA Ecological Society, Moldova; and Mr. Peter Thompson, Director of the Sustainable Development Department, the World Bank.

30. At the roundtable discussion on “Society in nature, nature in society”, a keynote address was delivered by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP. Speeches were given by Mr. Bruno Oberle, State Secretary, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland; Mr. Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State for Environment, Portugal (on behalf of the EU); Mr. Tiilikainen; Mr. Gordon McInnes, Deputy Executive Director, EEA; Mr. Frank Petter, Mayor of Woudrichem, President of the Noord-Brabant Biodiversity Working Group of Local Authorities, the Netherlands; Ms. Emmanuelle Mikosz, European Landowners’ Organization; Ms. Vera Coelho, GEOTA, Portugal; Mr. Sreten Djordjevic, Ecological Society “Gradac”, Serbia; Mr. Oleg Tsaruk, Caucasus Office, WWF Russia, the Russian Federation; Mr. Tamás Marghescu, Regional Director for Europe, the World Conservation Union (IUCN); and Mr. Rustam Murzakhanov, youth representative, Uzbekistan.

31. Participants of the roundtable adopted the Belgrade Statement on Biodiversity (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4/Add.2).

32. A multi-stakeholder initiative on biodiversity, “Looking towards the future”, was launched.



## V. CAPACITY-BUILDING

33. The agenda item on capacity-building was divided into two sessions: (a) on progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development; and (b) on South-East European (SEE) perspectives.

### A. Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development

34. The session was chaired by Mr. Mihailescu. The Chair opened the session and introduced the outline of the session. The session was organized in two clusters: the first focused on progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for EECCA countries, the second on progress and perspectives in implementation of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development. In introducing the first cluster, the Chair reminded participants that in May 2003 in Kiev, environment ministers had invited the EAP Task Force<sup>4</sup> “to lead efforts to facilitate and support the achievement of the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy”, and had called for a meeting of environment ministers to be organized in 2004 to discuss progress and provide additional impetus for efforts to achieve the Strategy objectives. As a follow-up to this Ministerial meeting, the EAP Task Force, together with UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, the World Bank and WHO and seven regional organizations, including NGOs, had prepared a report (“Policies for a better environment – progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”) that examined the recent environmental performance of 12 countries of the region. This report complemented two other reports: one on environmental quality in the pan-European region prepared by the EEA; and one on environmental policy in SEE prepared by UNDP.

35. Mr. Lorents Lorentsen, Director of the Environment Directorate, OECD, presented the findings of the report “Policies for a better environment – progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia” prepared by the EAP Task Force secretariat (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/16).

36. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Braliev; Ms. Soledad Blanco, Director of International Affairs, Environment Directorate-General, the European Commission; Mr. Aram Harutyunyan, Minister of Nature Protection, Armenia; Ms. Bízková; Mr. Michael Müller, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany; Mr. Michael Kozeltsev, REC Russia; and Ms. Olga Ponizova, ECO-Accord, European ECO-Forum, the Russian Federation.

37. Mr. Arstanbek Davletkeldiev, Director of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan, presented a report on the “Central Asia Initiative on Sustainable Development: progress and prospects” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/19).

---

<sup>4</sup> The Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe, whose secretariat is provided by OECD.

## **B. South-East European perspectives**

38. The session was chaired by Mr. Dragin. In his opening remarks Mr. Dragin noted the valuable role of the EfE process in promoting and facilitating bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the pan-European region, including subregional cooperation among SEE countries. He highlighted the common needs identified among countries of the SEE subregion during the preparatory process to the Conference, such as strengthening of capacities and cooperation for sustainable development, environmental infrastructure investments, harmonization of legislation and its implementation, environmental education and public awareness-raising, and enhancement of cooperation in the field of climate change.

39. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, WMO; Mr. Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment, Italy; Mr. Predrag Nenezić, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Montenegro; Mr. Lufter Xhuveli, Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania; Mr. Nikola Ružinski, State Secretary of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia; Ms. Sonja Lepitkova, Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Mr. Viliam Primorac, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. Stavros Kaloyannis, Deputy Minister of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greece; Ms. Kori Udovički, UNDP; Ms. Blanco; and Mr. Corrado Clini, Chairman of the Board of Directors, REC-CEE.

40. Mr. Dragin presented the “Belgrade Initiative: enhancing regional cooperation in the field of climate change – Climate Change Framework Action Plan for the SEE region and the establishment of a subregional, virtual climate change-related centre for research and systematic observation, education, training, public awareness, and capacity-building” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/20 and Add.1).

## **VI. PARTNERSHIPS**

41. The agenda item on partnerships was divided into two sessions: (a) on “Environmental policy and international competitiveness: Can we afford a better environment?”; and (b) on “Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes”.

### **A. Environmental policy and international competitiveness: Can we afford a better environment?**

42. The session was chaired by Mr. Oberle. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Oberle highlighted the importance of lasting environmental regulation, the emerging market in energy efficiency, and the increasing price of natural resources. He stressed the key themes to be addressed, namely the integration of environmental issues into national strategies of economic development, dialogue with all relevant parties, and assessment of effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis of environmental policy measures. He also noted that the market for global environmental technologies was currently among the most dynamic economic sectors. The costs for environmental protection were accompanied by certain advantages such as innovations, new marketing possibilities and benefits for the enterprise’s image. Mr. Oberle concluded that the real question for discussion was whether we could afford to give up health protection, the reduction

of environmental risk, the conservation of natural diversity, and the protection of our natural resources – all pillars on which all economic factors relied.

43. Mr. Belka presented the key findings of the report, “Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region” (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/21).

44. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Arunas Kundortas, Minister of Environment, Lithuania; Mr. Shigeo Katsu, the World Bank; Mr. Mihailescu; Mr. Kurulenko; and Mr. John Hontelez, European Environmental Bureau, European ECO-Forum, Belgium.

### **B. Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes**

45. The session was chaired by Ms. Marta Bonifert, Executive Director, REC-CEE. The session was composed of two clusters: a discussion on environmental finance, and a roundtable discussion on partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes. In her opening address, Ms. Bonifert stressed the role of environmental finance and partnerships in contributing to successful solutions of policies and programmes in the fields of environment and sustainable development, including those of other emerging issues, e.g. energy efficiency and renewable energies, security, sustainable consumption and production, pollution from transport, and climate change. Ms. Bonifert highlighted the common characteristics of successful partnerships and the prerequisites for environmental financing, stressing the role of diverse actors in a multi-stakeholder partnership – including policymakers and governments, the private sector and financial institutions, NGOs and civil society – as well as partnerships’ needs and challenges.

46. During the discussion on environmental finance, keynote addresses were delivered by Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Vice-President, EBRD; Mr. Tiilikainen; Mr. Douglas Menarchik, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, USAID, United States; and Mr. Gunnar Boye Olesen, OVE/INFORSE<sup>5</sup>, Denmark.

47. During the roundtable discussion on partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes, keynote addresses were delivered by Ms. Gasparini; Mr. Baghirov; Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE, Mr. Nenezić; Ms. Karlsson; Ms. Bízkova; Mr. Menarchik; Ms. Bonifert; Mr. Piet Steel, Toyota Motors Europe; and Mr. Janis Brizga, Green Liberty, Latvia.

## **VII. THE FUTURE OF THE PROCESS**

48. Mr. Dragin chaired this session. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Dragin underlined that from the first EfE Conference (Dobris, Czech Republic, 1991) until today, the EfE process had come a long way in engaging all countries in the region and many important international organizations in improving the environment. He reiterated the slogan of the Belgrade Conference – Building bridges to the future – and underlined that the message of the Conference should be to

---

<sup>5</sup> The Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy (OVE-Europe) and the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE).

find solutions for the problems that still persist and might only be resolved through joint efforts. Mr. Dragin emphasized that countries of the UNECE region should ensure that a future EfE process remained responsive to the needs of countries and to the evolving political and economic landscape, and that its political dimension should be kept open to all interested partners in the UNECE region and to pan-European issues. He also underlined that in the future the EfE process should concentrate on the needs identified in the EECCA and SEE countries as well, taking into account that developments in these countries did not follow a common pattern. He concluded by calling for an increasing concentration on subregional and national approaches and a future EfE process focused on needs-based, result-driven and action-oriented activities.

49. A keynote address was given by Mr. Francisco Nunes Correia, Portugal, on behalf of the EU. Statements were delivered by Mr. Alexey Varlamov, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, the Russian Federation; Mr. Oberle; Mr. Tiilikainen; Mr. Kurulenko; Ms. Karlsson; Mr. Reifsnnyder; Mr. Bert-Axel Szelinski, Head of Unit, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany; Mr. Gregoire de Kalbermatten, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD; Ms. Anna Golubovskaya-Onissimova, European ECO-Forum, Ukraine; Ms. Anke Stock, Women in Europe for a Common Future, Germany; and Ms. Alla Lytvinenko, Chair of the Board, Youth and Environment Europe, the Russian Federation.

50. After the discussion on the future of the “Environment for Europe” process, including relevant issues addressed in the Ministerial Declaration, Mr. Dragin introduced the draft Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration was adopted by acclamation (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/8).

51. Statements on the Ministerial Declaration were made by Turkey and the European ECO-Forum.

52. Mr. Braliev reiterated the offer by Kazakhstan to host the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in 2011.

### **VIII. CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE**

53. As Chair of the Conference, Mr. Dragin, summarized its results. The Chair’s Summary was circulated to the participants (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/9).

54. Mr. Dragin thanked the delegations for their fruitful cooperation during the Conference and wished them success in their future work. He expressed his confidence that the decisions of the Conference would have a lasting influence on the common future of the countries in the region. He highlighted that the Conference had been carbon neutral due to the support of the Government of Portugal. Mr. Dragin thanked the donor countries for their support, which had enabled a representative participation in and an efficient organization of the preparatory process and the Conference. He also thanked the Conference secretariat for their professional work throughout the process.

55. The Conference expressed its deep gratitude to the Government of Serbia for having hosted the event and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants.

## Annex

## List of Conference documents

No.	Document title	Document reference
<b>DOCUMENTS (Category I)</b>		
1.	Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/1/Rev.1
2.	Organization of work at the Conference	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/2
3.	List of documents	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/3
4.	Report of the Conference	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/4
5.	Compilation of summaries of documents for action by ministers	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/5
6.	Compilation of summaries of background documents	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/6
7.	The future of the "Environment for Europe" process	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/7
8.	Ministerial Declaration	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/8
9.	Chair's Summary	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/9
<b><i>Assessment and implementation: State of the environment and monitoring and assessment</i></b>		
10.	Europe's environment: the fourth assessment	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/10
11.	Making monitoring and assessment effective tools in environmental policy - Recommendations to Governments of East European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries for the application of environmental indicators and the preparation of indicator-based environment assessment reports - Guidelines for strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11 ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11/Add.1 ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/11/Add.2
<b><i>Assessment and implementation: Implementation of multilateral agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews</i></b>		
12.	Implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/12
13.	From intentions to actions: overcoming bottlenecks. Critical issues in implementation of environmental policies highlighted by the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/13 ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/13/Corr.1 ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/13/Add.1
<b><i>Joint session on education for sustainable development</i></b>		
14.	Draft statement on education for sustainable development by the ministers of education and of the environment of the UNECE region	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/14
<b><i>Biodiversity</i></b>		
15.	Draft Belgrade statement on biodiversity	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/15
<b><i>Capacity-building: Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development</i></b>		
16.	Policies for a better environment - progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/16
17.	Guiding principles of effective environmental permitting systems	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/17
18.	Initiative on strategic environment assessment	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/18
19.	Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development: progress and prospects	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/19
<b><i>Capacity-building: South-East European perspectives</i></b>		
20.	Belgrade Initiative: enhancing regional South-East European	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/20

No.	Document title	Document reference
	cooperation in the field of climate change – Climate Change Framework Action Plan for the South-Eastern European region and the establishment of a subregional, virtual climate change-related centre for research and systematic observation, education, training, public awareness, and capacity-building	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/20/Add.1
<b><i>Partnerships: Environmental policy and international competitiveness: can we afford a better environment?</i></b>		
21.	Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the UNECE region	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/21
<b><i>Partnerships: Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes</i></b>		
22.	Mobilizing finance for environmental priorities: recommendations for the future	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/22
23.	Public sector participation in the Energy Efficiency Equity Fund	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/23
24.	Public-private partnership for reduced air pollution from vehicles through no-lead and low-sulphur fuels	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/24
25.	Sustainable consumption and production	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/25
26.	Environment and security partnerships: conflicts and the environment	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/26
27.	Cooperation and frameworks for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in Europe	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/27
28.	Delivering energy efficiency: developments and priorities	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/28
<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (Category II)</b>		
<b><i>Assessment and implementation: State of the environment and monitoring and assessment</i></b>		
29.	Environmental indicators and indicator-based assessment reports: Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/6
30.	Assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/1
31.	Monitoring what matters: tailoring millennium targets and indicators of environmental sustainability to local conditions in Europe and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/7
<b><i>Assessment and implementation: Implementation of multilateral agreements and findings of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews</i></b>		
32.	Challenges and opportunities of transboundary accidental water pollution, liability and compensation – progress towards ratification of the Civil Liability Protocol	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/2
33.	Tackling regional, hemispheric and global air pollution: the potential role of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/8
<b><i>Joint session on education for sustainable development</i></b>		
34.	Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward: report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3 ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3/Add.1
35.	Good practices in education for sustainable development in the UNECE region	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/9
<b><i>Biodiversity</i></b>		
36.	Report on the status of implementation of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity: achievements, challenges and future action to reach the 2010 pan-European biodiversity target	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/10

No.	Document title	Document reference
37.	The Pan-European Ecological Network: state of the implementation of the network- message to ministers and policymakers	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/11
38.	The Pan-European Ecological Network: taking stock	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/12
39.	Biodiversity for Europe now! – European ECO-Forum's recommendations for pan-European cooperation	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/13
<b><i>Capacity-building: Progress and perspectives in implementation of the Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development</i></b>		
40.	Progress report on partnerships in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/14
41.	Translating environmental law into practice: progress in modernizing environmental regulation and compliance assurance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/15
42.	Financing water supply and sanitation in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and progress in achieving water-related Millennium Development Goals	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/16
43.	European Union Water Initiative – Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/17
44.	Strengthening environmental governance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia through local environmental action programmes	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/18
<b><i>Capacity-building: South-East European perspectives</i></b>		
45.	Acceptance and implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements in South-Eastern Europe	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/19
46.	Municipal environmental investments in South-Eastern Europe: 2001–2005	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/20
47.	Towards a healthy and productive Adriatic ecosystem	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/21
48.	Environmental policy in South-Eastern Europe	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/22
49.	Protection and sustainable development of mountain areas in South-Eastern Europe	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/23
<b><i>Partnerships: Environmental policy and international competitiveness: Can we afford a better environment?</i></b>		
50.	Integrating environment in key economic sectors in Europe and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/28
51.	Integrating environment into agriculture and forestry: progress and prospects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/32
<b><i>Partnerships: Environmental finance and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policies and programmes</i></b>		
52.	Project Preparation Committee report to the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/24
53.	Trends in environmental finance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/25
54.	Environmental financing trends in South-Eastern Europe: 2001–2005	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/26
55.	Recommendations on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/27
56.	Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation in selected transition economies	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/4
57.	Policy developments and challenges in delivering energy efficiency	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/29

No.	Document title	Document reference
58.	Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/30
59.	Sustainable consumption and production in South-Eastern Europe	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/31
60.	Facilitating development of coal mine methane projects in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/5

-----