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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Special session
Geneva, 27–29 January 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations
starting on Tuesday, 27 January 2009, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process
3. Review of the programme of work:
 - (a) Environmental Performance Reviews:
 - (i) Peer review of the Environmental Performance Review of Kyrgyzstan
 - (ii) Activities under the programme
 - (b) Environmental monitoring and assessment
 - (c) Partnerships with the private sector

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available on the Committee’s website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat *no later than two weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by 13 January 2009* – either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or e-mail (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee’s website). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499.

4. Programme of work for 2009
5. Any other business
6. Election of officers
7. Closing of the special session

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Tuesday, 27 January 2009

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

The Committee on Environmental Policy is expected to adopt the agenda for its special session (ECE/CEP/S/151).

**Item 2: Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process
(10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m., Wednesday, 28 January 2008
3 – 6 p.m. and Thursday, 29 January 2008, 10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m)**

Following the decision taken at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007) and reflected in the Belgrade Ministerial Declaration, to undertake a reform of the “Environment for Europe” process, the Committee discussed the modalities of the reform at its fifteenth session (21–23 April 2008) and at the Extended Bureau meeting (23–24 June 2008). The Committee further developed a draft “Environment for Europe” reform plan at its special session (13–15 October 2008) and decided to hold an additional special session in January 2009 to finalize the draft reform plan. The Committee will therefore be invited to discuss and finalize the draft “Environment for Europe” reform plan (ECE/CEP/2009/S/1), with the aim of approving and submitting it to the Commission at its sixty-third session for endorsement.

Wednesday, 28 January 2009

Item 3: Review of the programme of work (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

(a) Environmental Performance Reviews (10 – 11.30 a.m.)

(i) Peer review of the Environmental Performance Review of Kyrgyzstan

The Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Kyrgyzstan (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/countriesreviewed.htm>). The Committee is expected to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report revised by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at its meeting of 26 January 2009. On the basis of the decision taken at its fifteenth session, the Committee will discuss issues related to the review of Kyrgyzstan. A conference room paper will be prepared to guide the discussion.

(ii) Activities under the programme

The secretariat will inform the Committee about the launch event of the review of Kazakhstan, and about upcoming activities under the Environmental Performance Review programme.

(b) Environmental monitoring and assessment (11.30 a.m. – noon)

The Committee will continue its discussions on the modalities of its cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on methodological issues of environmental indicators. These discussions will take into account the support expressed by the CES Bureau at its meeting held on 20 and 21 October 2008 in Washington, D.C., and by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, at its September 2008 meeting, for the establishment of a joint intersectoral task force on environmental indicators for this purpose. The secretariat will inform the Committee about possible options for the said cooperation as well as relevant resource requirements.

The Committee will take a decision accordingly.

(c) Partnerships with the private sector (noon –12.30 p.m.)

As follow-up to the round-table discussions held in October 2008 and based on proposals put forward thereafter by the two Chairmen of the round-table sessions on further steps for developing cooperation with the private sector in the frameworks the Committee's work and the "Environment for Europe" process, the Committee will be invited to discuss these proposals further. The Committee may wish to provide further guidance on how to strengthen the involvement of the private sector in the Committee's work and in the "Environment for Europe" process.

Item 4: Programme of work for 2009 (12.30 – 1 p.m.)

Following the Committee's request at its special session in October 2008, the secretariat prepared a draft programme of work for 2009 (ECE/CEP/2009/S/2).

The Committee will be invited to discuss and agree on the draft programme of work 2009.

Thursday, 29 January 2009

Item 5: Any other business (5 – 5.15 p.m.)

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

Item 6: Election of officers (5.15 – 5.45 p.m.)

The Committee will be invited to elect the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau.

Item 7: Closing of the special session (5.45– 6 p.m.)

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

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