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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Sixteenth session  
Geneva, 20–23 October 2009

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 October 2009.\*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Outcomes of the sixty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

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\* 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 available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/currentSession.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail ([efe@unece.org](mailto:efe@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's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.

4. Review of the programme of work:
  - (a) Environmental Performance Reviews:
    - (i) Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan;
    - (ii) Climate change and its impact in countries under the Environmental Performance Review programme;
  - (b) Environmental indicators and monitoring;
  - (c) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements: their contributions to the climate change agenda;
  - (d) Cross-sectoral activities:
    - (i) Education for sustainable development;
    - (ii) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
    - (iii) Environment and Security Initiative;
    - (iv) Environment and health process.
5. Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”:
  - (a) Host country preparations for the Conference;
  - (b) Preparations of the assessment report(s) for the Conference;
  - (c) Selection of the themes for the Conference.
6. Programme of work:
  - (a) Programme of work for 2010–2011;
  - (b) Reporting on programme performance.
7. Calendar of meetings.
8. Any other business.
9. Closure of the meeting.

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy's activity is guided by the goals set out in the document on future strategic directions for the environment adopted in 2003 (CEP/2004/2) and by the workplan on reform for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted in 2005 (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1). In 2007, UNECE adopted the revised terms of reference for the Committee (E/ECE/1447/Add.1).

2. The reform plan of the "Environment for Europe" (EfE) process adopted by the Committee and subsequently endorsed by the UNECE mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the EfE Ministerial Conferences (ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and corr.1).

3. Information and materials for this meeting will be available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>).

### **Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

Tuesday, 20 October, 10 – 10.20 a.m.

4. Following the opening of the meeting, the Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/154).

### **Item 2. Election of officers**

Tuesday, 20 October, 10.20 – 10.30 a.m.

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

### **Item 3. Outcomes of the sixty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe of concern to the Committee on Environmental Policy**

Tuesday, 20 October, 10.30 – 11 a.m.

6. The secretariat will inform the Committee about relevant decisions taken at the sixty-third session of the Commission. The Committee will be invited to consider these, as appropriate. The outcomes of the Commission session are provided in the annual report (E/ECE/1453), which is available on the UNECE website ([http://www.unece.org/commission/2009/63rd\\_index.htm](http://www.unece.org/commission/2009/63rd_index.htm)).

7. The Committee will be informed about the preparation of the fourth regional implementation meeting on sustainable development (RIM-4), scheduled to be held in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2009. The aim of RIM-4 will be to prepare the UNECE region's contribution to the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18), to be held from 3 to 14 May 2010 in New York. CSD-18 will open the fourth two-year cycle of its multi-year work programme with a focus on the following main thematic issues: transport,

chemicals, waste management, mining and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. CSD-18 will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals in the above areas and will identify obstacles and constraints. It will also address the challenges ahead and the necessary next steps to be taken. Linkages to cross-cutting issues will also be addressed, as in every cycle.

#### **Item 4. Review of the programme of work**

##### **(a) Environmental Performance Reviews**

Tuesday, 20 October, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

##### **(i) Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan**

8. The Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Uzbekistan (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/welcome.htm>). The Committee will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report revised by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at their meeting on 19 October 2009 (information paper no. 4).

##### **(ii) Climate change and its impact in countries under the Environmental Performance Review programme**

9. The Committee will be invited to discuss the impacts of climate change on different sectors in countries under the Environmental Performance Review programme (ECE/CEP/2009/6).

##### **(b) Environmental indicators and monitoring**

Thursday, 22 October, 10 a.m. – noon

10. The Committee will be invited to consider the results of the first meeting of the Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators (Geneva, 31 August–2 September 2009; see document ECE/CEP/2009/9) and of the tenth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 3–4 September 2009; see document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2009/2). The Committee will be invited to comment on the progress made in the activities of the two bodies.

##### **(c) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements: their contributions to the climate change agenda**

Thursday, 22 October, 10 a.m. – noon

11. The secretariats of the UNECE environmental conventions will brief the Committee about their activities related to the implementation of the conventions and their protocols, with a

focus on their contribution to the climate change agenda. The Committee may wish to take note of the activities undertaken.

**(d) Cross-sectoral activities**

Thursday, 22 October, noon – 1 p.m.

**(i) Education for sustainable development**

12. The Committee will be informed about the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (Geneva, 19–20 February 2009; see document ECE/CEP/AC.13/2009/2). The documents and materials of the meeting are available online at: <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm#4thMtg>. The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

**(ii) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

13. The Committee will be informed about the outcomes of the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Amsterdam, 22–23 January 2009; see document ECE/AC.21/2009/2 - EUR/09/508385/2). The documents and materials of the meeting are available online at: <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/hlm/hl3.htm>. The Committee may wish to consider the outcomes, as appropriate.

**(iii) Environment and Security Initiative**

14. The Committee will be informed on the ongoing contributions of UNECE to the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative (information paper no. 3). The Committee may wish to provide comments on the actions taken.

**(iv) Environment and health process**

15. The Committee will be informed about the preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, scheduled to be held in Parma, Italy, from 10 to 12 March 2010. More information on this upcoming event is available on the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe website (<http://www.euro.who.int/parma2010>). The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

**Item 5. Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”**

**(a) Host country preparations for the Conference**

Tuesday, 20 October, 3 – 3.30 p.m.

16. The representative of Kazakhstan will be invited to inform the Committee about the preparations to host the next EfE Ministerial Conference, scheduled to take place in Astana in 2011.

**(b) Preparations of the assessment reports for the Conference**

Tuesday, 20 October, 3.30 – 4.30 p.m.

17. The Committee will be invited to consider the outcomes of the brainstorming meeting of its Extended Bureau (Geneva, 19 May 2009) relevant to this agenda item. It will also take into account the follow-up meeting of the European Environment Agency (Copenhagen, 3 July 2009), as well as the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment's discussions at its tenth session (Geneva, 3-4 September 2009) concerning the assessment for the Astana Conference. Detailed information on the outcomes of the meeting of the Committee's Extended Bureau is contained in the report of the meeting (see document ECE/CEP/2009/8). The Committee will also be informed about the main outcomes of the annual meeting of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force<sup>1</sup> of the Organisation for Economic Co-ordination and Development (OECD) (Paris, 15–16 October 2009).

**(c) Selection of the themes for the Conference**

Tuesday, 20 October, 4.30 – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 21 October, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 3 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, 22 October, 4 – 6 p.m.

Friday, 23 October, 10 a.m. – noon

18. The Committee will be invited to consider the common environmental priorities in the UNECE region, with a view to deciding on not more than two themes for the Conference.

19. According to the EfE reform plan, preliminary findings of available assessments and statistical reports on environment should be taken into account when the Committee decides on the themes for the Conference. At the brainstorming meeting of the Extended Bureau, participants shared information on both the most recent and upcoming assessments and the statistical reports. EfE partners involved in preparing these assessments were invited to provide an up-to-two-page summary of (preliminary) findings. These contributions will be compiled in a background document with a view to facilitating the Committee's deliberations on the selection of the two themes for the Conference (see document ECE/CEP/2009/5). In addition, the secretariat will circulate a paper with an overview of the commitments made in the Belgrade Ministerial Declaration referencing the next EfE Conference (see document ECE/CEP/2009/4).

20. To maintain the open nature of the preparatory process and the engagement of all stakeholders, the representatives of major groups and other EfE partners will be given the opportunity to actively participate in the discussions.

21. In particular, representatives of the private sector will be given the floor to express their interest and to inform the session about their potential contributions to the Conference, in line with the provisions of the EfE reform plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Item 6. Programme of work**

Thursday, 22 October, 3 – 4 p.m.

**(a) Programme of work for 2010–2011**

22. The Committee will be invited to consider its programme of work for 2010–2011 (ECE/CEP/2009/3). When discussing the programme of work, the Committee may wish to take into account the discussions under the previous agenda items.

**(b) Reporting on programme performance**

23. The Committee will be invited to endorse the decision of its Bureau related to the biannual evaluation of the environment subprogramme's performance. The Bureau will have revised, for each cluster of activities, the draft expected accomplishments together with the related indicators of achievement as reflected in document ECE/CEP/2009/7. The Committee will also be invited to endorse the Bureau's decision on the draft expected accomplishments together with the related indicators of achievement for the biennium 2010–2011.

24. The Committee will be informed about reporting related to the budget year 2008/2009 for each accomplishment as well as about the results achieved and lessons learned, including areas needing adjustment. The Committee will also discuss, on the basis of information received in advance, the regular and extrabudgetary resources for all activities relating to the environment. Donor countries will be invited to pledge further contributions to the trust funds and to agree on the updated criteria for financial assistance (information paper no. 1).

**Item 7. Calendar of meetings**

Friday, 23 October, noon – 12.30 p.m.

25. The Committee will be invited to consider the scheduling of its next meeting and that of its Bureau. It is proposed to hold the next meeting on 16 and 17 March 2010 given the "Environment for Europe" reform plan's provisions to decide on not more than two themes for the Conference and to discuss the outline of the Conference's agenda not later than 18 months in advance of the Conference. The secretariat has prepared a proposed schedule of meetings for both the Committee and its Bureau as a basis for the discussion (information paper no. 2).

**Item 8. Any other business**

Friday, 23 October, 12.30 – 12.45 p.m.

26. The Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items will be invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

**Item 9. Closure of the meeting**

Friday, 23 October, 12.45 – 1 p.m.

27. The Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Committee's conclusions and decisions and close the meeting. The Bureau will be invited to meet at 3 p.m. to discuss its follow-up activities. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for circulation to the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>).

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