



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2010

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Seventeenth session

Geneva, 2–5 November 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Outcomes of the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Report of the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Note by the secretariat

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–14	3
A. Attendance	2–7	3
B. Organizational matters	8–13	3
C. Adoption of the agenda.....	14	4
II. Outcomes of the recent meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy.	15–16	4
III. Environmental performance reviews.....	17–22	5
IV. Environmental monitoring and assessment	23	6
V. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference ..	24–46	6
A. Host country preparations for the Conference	24–29	6
B. Draft agenda for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference	30–38	7
C. Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments report	39–41	8
D. Other issues relevant to the Conference.....	42–46	9
VI. Environmental programme performance 2010–2011	47–48	10
VII. Calendar of meetings.....	49	10
VIII. Summary of decisions by the Extended Bureau of the Committee	50	10

IX.	Closure of the meeting	51–52	11
Annexes			
I.	Time frame for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.....		12
II.	Schedule of preparatory meetings for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference		13

I. Introduction

1. The meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy was held on 16 and 17 March 2010 in Geneva.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by delegations from 30 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

3. From the United Nations system, representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from offices in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Health Organization (WHO) attended.

4. Representatives of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat were present.

5. Representatives of the European Environment Agency (EEA) also attended the meeting.

6. Representatives from the five Regional Environmental Centres (RECs) also took part in the meeting: the REC for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE); the REC for the Caucasus (REC-Caucasus); the REC for Central Asia (CAREC); the REC for the Republic of Moldova (REC-Moldova); and the REC for the Russian Federation (REC-Russia).

7. In addition, representatives of environmental civil society associations — the European ECO-Forum, the European Environmental Bureau and the Volgograd-Ecopress Information Centre of the Russian Federation — as well as of the private sector — the Kazakhstan Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina — were in attendance.

B. Organizational matters

8. The meeting opened with a welcome address by the Executive Secretary of UNECE. He acknowledged the successful outcomes of the Committee's last meeting and the decision taken on the two themes for the Astana Ministerial Conference, and expressed his appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for its generous offer to host the Conference in Astana in autumn 2011. The Extended Bureau of the Committee was assured of UNECE commitment to provide strong support to the "Environment for Europe" (EfE) process by servicing the preparatory process and contributing its expertise on and experience in environmental issues in the region.

9. The Executive Secretary briefed the meeting on the main outcomes of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which had taken place in Parma, Italy, from 10 to 12 March 2010. The Conference had adopted a ministerial declaration, including

an action plan with concrete goals, as well as a new institutional framework for the European Environment and Health Process (2010–2016). The establishment of two bodies was foreseen within the new institutional framework as follows: (a) a task force — an intergovernmental body composed of representatives of environment and health sectors and stakeholders — as a leading body for implementing and monitoring the process commitments (one of the meetings would be a high-level session focusing on a mid-term review); and (b) a European environment and health ministerial board — a political driving force of the process — composed of eight ministers or their high-level representatives nominated by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe from the health sector and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy from the environment sector, so as to ensure equal sectoral and geographic representation. Letters would be sent to UNECE member States inviting ministers of environment to express their interest in serving a two-year term on the Board. The Committee would screen the received nominations and consequently choose four Board members. The Board would be accountable to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

10. With regard to the regional coordination mechanism, UNECE, in close cooperation with UNEP, had established a thematic working group on climate change and had approved its terms of reference as a means to enhance practical cooperation between relevant agencies active in the UNECE region. A compilation of participating regional agencies' capabilities in climate change adaptation and mitigation had been carried out with a view to streamlining the work of each agency and joining efforts in that field.

11. The Chair said that he had delivered a progress report on the environmental programme of work to the UNECE Executive Committee via a videoconference in December 2009, which had been well received.

12. The Extended Bureau of the Committee took note of the information provided. The necessary arrangements relating to the establishment of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board would be made in time for the seventeenth session of the Committee (2–5 November 2010).

13. The Extended Bureau also noted that a new Bureau member had been proposed by Montenegro. The candidature of Ms. Jelena Knezevic, Deputy Minister at the Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning of Montenegro, would be formally considered for election by the next session of the Committee.

C. Adoption of the agenda

14. The agenda was adopted.

II. Outcomes of the recent meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee on Environmental Policy

15. The Secretary to the Committee on Environmental Policy presented the relevant outcomes of the recent meetings of the UNECE Executive Committee. She informed the Committee of the approval to establish the UNECE Steering Group on Environmental Assessments, whose main objective would be to prepare the Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments (EEAoA) report for the Astana Ministerial Conference (see ECE/EX/2010/L.6). The Executive Committee had also approved the Committee on Environmental Policy's Programme of Work for 2010–2011 (ECE/EX/2010/L.8).

16. The Executive Committee took note of the information provided.

III. Environmental performance reviews

17. The rapporteur designated by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) said that the Expert Group had reviewed Georgia's environmental performance at its meeting of 15 March 2010. Progress in strengthening environmental enforcement had been made in that country by establishing the environmental protection inspectorate within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection, as well as by developing a national strategy to ensure environmental compliance for 2007-2010. The legislative framework had been developed substantially since the first EPR in 2003 and greater transparency in decision-making had been achieved. Georgia had taken some promising steps in monitoring biodiversity and there was evidence that the self-monitoring of industrial enterprises was on track, with a good maintenance of environmental databases. In 2004, the Government had approved the national goals for general education, emphasizing the role of environmental education. Georgia played an active role in regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing common environmental challenges. Georgia was a party to 16 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), 3 protocols and 29 bilateral environmental agreements and memorandums of understanding with other countries and international organizations. Four MEAs had been ratified in the period since the first review. A regional water supply development agency had been established as a first step towards improving water supply in the country. The Government had also made efforts to improve the country's preparedness for natural disasters and a number of regulations had been introduced in the past few years. The number of protected areas had increased and constituted up to 25 per cent of the country. In addition, a draft national protected areas system development strategy and action plan had been drawn up in 2008 and a Red List had been prepared and approved.

18. However, a number of issues still needed to be addressed in order to improve national environmental performance, such as the development of new environmental policy tools (e.g., a second national environmental action plan and a national strategy on sustainable development), as well as the introduction of new and the modification of existing environmental legislation. The environmental permitting system should be properly developed and permits established in the air, water and waste sectors. Environmental controlling authorities at the central and territorial levels should be strengthened. The environmental monitoring system should be enhanced by setting up a suitable number of monitoring stations and an electronic database. Georgia should also consider the establishment of the necessary prerequisites for ratifying the UNECE MEAs to which the country was not yet a Party. Concerning economic incentives, pollution taxes and the polluter-pays principle should be introduced. Steps should be taken to ensure that the national economic development strategy explicitly took into account the linkages between economic activity and the environment. The legal framework for the water supply and sanitation systems, as well as for the waste management sector, should be fundamentally revised. The waste management sector should be reformed, bearing in mind that efficient and cost-effective waste management required inter-municipal, regional and national planning. In addition, a plan aimed at facilitating waste management reform, as well as a State policy document on forestry protection, should be drafted.

19. The Chair, in his capacity as the head of delegation of Georgia, presented the current situation in the country, focusing on measures taken, main environmental priorities and progress achieved since the first EPR had appeared in 2003. A step-by-step approach would be used to implement the recommendations of the second EPR.

20. In the ensuing discussion, delegates posed questions to the representatives of Georgia, made comments and provided some practical guidance on how to better implement the EPR recommendations. The Committee concluded the peer review by

adopting the recommendations in the second review of Georgia. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for their financial support to the EPR Programme, which had made Georgia's second EPR possible. It also thanked the Governments of Germany and Portugal for their providing experts for the review.

21. The secretariat reported on other activities of the EPR Expert Group. The expert missions for the second reviews of Azerbaijan and Bosnia and Herzegovina would be conducted in April and May 2010, respectively. The second review of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was under way and a preparatory mission would be carried out in May 2010. Discussions were ongoing with the representative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan regarding a possible EPR. In that regard, representatives of the secretariat and the Swiss Government would conduct a country mission to Turkmenistan from 22 to 24 March 2010. The EPR synopsis — which aimed to provide a concise and user-friendly extract of the executive summary, conclusions and recommendations, as well as an overview of the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous EPR — was successfully pilot-tested with the reviews of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and would be developed for the ongoing reviews. Following preliminary discussions by the EPR Expert Group, a document on the third cycle of reviews would be prepared for the seventeenth session of the Committee, in November 2010.

22. The Committee took note of the information provided and reiterated the importance of the EPR Programme in supporting the efforts of beneficiary countries to improve their environmental management.

IV. Environmental monitoring and assessment

23. Following the mandate given by the Committee, the Extended Bureau considered and approved the Guidelines for Developing National Strategies to Use Air Quality Monitoring as an Environmental Policy Tool (ECE/CEP/2009/10) for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and of South-Eastern Europe, and called upon those countries to implement them.

V. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

A. Host country preparations for the Conference

24. The representative of Kazakhstan said that national preparations to host the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference were under way.

25. The Extended Bureau had considered various dates for the Conference and agreed that it would be held in Astana at the Independence Palace (see <http://www.dvorec-nezavisimosti.kz/en/>) from 21 to 23 September 2011. The internal costs of organizing the Conference would be covered by the State budget; the host country had allocated some US\$ 2.5 million from its budget for 2010–2012 for the purpose. In addition to those funds, the delegation of Kazakhstan had asked countries for financial and in-kind support. A detailed budget would be prepared and circulated by the end of spring 2010 for the Committee's consideration.

26. An inter-ministerial task force had been established under the leadership of the First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan to prepare both the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Ministerial Conference on

Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (Astana, 27 September–2 October 2011) and the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference, and to ensure linkages between the two high-level events. To support the work of the task force, the Advisory Council — a working group composed of representatives of relevant ministries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as observers from other Central Asian countries — had been set up with CAREC serving as the secretariat. The Advisory Council, which had met in November 2009 and February 2010, aimed to involve all relevant stakeholders and in particular, the private sector, in the preparatory processes and in the two Conferences.

27. The Executive Director of CAREC presented the main outcomes of the two meetings of the Advisory Council and informed the Extended Bureau of progress achieved in the national preparations for the two Conferences. While the current focus was on preparing the ESCAP Conference in 2010, the host country expected to use that experience and the lessons learned for the EfE Conference in 2011.

28. Participants wished to know about the availability of hotels close to the Conference venue or, alternatively, what kind of public transportation would be available to ensure a good and timely connection between hotels and the Conference venue. The representative of Kazakhstan said that public transportation would indeed be available during the Conference. In addition, it was expected that over the next six months hotels would be built about two kilometres from the Independence Palace.

29. The Extended Bureau took note of the information provided and congratulated Kazakhstan for its progress in organizing the Conference. The meeting requested the host country to prepare a paper containing detailed information on the Conference venue and the availability of hotels, including prices, for the Committee's session in November 2010.

B. Draft agenda for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

30. The Secretary to the Committee presented the document containing the proposed draft outline of the Conference agenda, prepared in consultation with the Committee's Bureau, with a view to facilitating the selection of the sub-themes for the Conference and shaping the Conference agenda (Information paper 1). In that context, the Chair of the IFAS Executive Committee presented the Fund's ongoing activities of relevance to the Astana Conference agenda. In addition, the Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe presented the outcome of the UNEP Governing Council meeting in relation to the Conference themes.

31. Participants welcomed the document containing the draft outline of the Conference agenda and decided to discuss the possible sub-themes for the Conference and to revise part III of the document with the draft time frame for the Conference.

32. The Extended Bureau recommended that the Conference should start on Wednesday, 21 September 2011, in the afternoon and end on the evening of Friday, 23 September 2011, for a total of two and a half meeting days. The working schedule for the Conference would be convenient given that nearly all flights arrived in and departed from Astana early in the morning. The Conference would start with an opening ceremony lasting up to two hours.

33. With regard to the involvement of the private sector in the Conference, reference was made to the recently launched call for action by 29 leading global companies of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to rethink the role that business should play in coming decades to enable society to move towards environmental sustainability, through Vision 2050

(<http://www.wbcsd.org/Plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?DocTypeId=33&ObjectId=Mzc0MDE>). Participants suggested involving WBCSD in the Astana Ministerial Conference with a view to contributing to the preparations through the Vision 2050 process.

34. The meeting agreed that the Conference sessions should be structured in an interactive way. It was suggested that most of the sessions should start with a short plenary meeting featuring a limited number of presentations from different stakeholders in order to kick off the discussion. Thereafter, a number of parallel multi-stakeholder round-table discussions would be held with a maximum of 30 to 40 participants, including Ministers, civil society and private sector representatives, as well as a moderator and a rapporteur. The round-table discussions would address the same issue or different issues, as appropriate, and the outcomes of the discussions would be reported at a dedicated session on the last day of the Conference. Speeches, prepared in advance, should be strongly discouraged during the round tables; instead, participants should exchange views on the theme under discussion. The private sector should be represented at the highest level, for example by chief executive officers.

35. Participants agreed that linkages should be ensured between the Astana Ministerial Conference and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 so that the latter could benefit from the experience of the Astana Ministerial Conference.

36. There was a lively discussion on the possible structure and sub-themes for the Astana Conference agenda, but no consensus was reached. (The outcome of the discussion is presented in annex I to this document.)

37. The Extended Bureau agreed that the Bureau of the Committee, with support from the secretariat, would work further on drafting the outline of the Conference agenda with a view to its approval at the seventeenth session of the Committee.

38. Representatives of EfE partners and stakeholders participating in the meeting reiterated their commitment to actively participate in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself.

C. Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments report

39. The Co-Chair of the UNECE Steering Group on Environmental Assessments and the EEA representative informed the meeting on progress in preparing the EEAOA report. An informal preparatory meeting had been convened by EEA in Copenhagen on 16 and 17 February 2010 to exchange ideas and discuss future activities leading up to the preparation of the EEAOA report, in particular the establishment of the Steering Group, its composition and a proposal for the consideration by the Extended Bureau. The first meeting of the Steering Group would be held in Geneva on 25 and 26 March 2010.¹

40. The Extended Bureau considered the progress in preparing the EEAOA. Delegates voiced their commitment to actively participate in the preparation of the assessment. While acknowledging the importance of addressing all the main environmental issues, participants agreed that the report should have a particular focus on the two themes of the Conference. Participants also suggested including an assessment of reporting required for MEAs.

41. The Extended Bureau approved the proposed composition, as set out below, of the Steering Group on the understanding that a representative from the private sector (e.g., WBCSD) would be invited by the co-Chairs to participate in the Steering Group:

¹ The outcome of that meeting is available at http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/SGEA.html#SGEA_1stMtg.

- (a) Co-chairs: EEA and Kazakhstan (2);
- (b) Countries: Georgia, Italy, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uzbekistan (10);
- (c) Rotating Presidency of the European Union: Spain (1);
- (d) European Commission: Directorate-General for the Environment (1);
- (e) Intergovernmental bodies: Chair of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (2);
- (f) International and regional bodies: UNEP, OECD, UNDP, CAREC (4);
- (g) Civil society: European ECO-Forum (1);
- (h) Private sector: WBCSD (1).

D. Other issues relevant to the Conference

42. The Secretary to the Committee presented the draft document with organizational issues for the Astana Ministerial Conference (Information paper 2). Delegates welcomed the document and provided comments to paragraph 25, requesting that the paragraph be reworded in line with the relevant text from the EfE Reform Plan. Regarding the official substantive documents on the two themes, the meeting agreed that the final drafts could still be discussed at the special session of the Committee in May 2011, if necessary.

43. The secretariat was asked to finalize the document for approval by the Committee at its seventeenth session in November 2010 and to prepare for the session draft outlines of the official substantive documents on the two themes of the Conference. In addition, the secretariat was requested to prepare a draft framework of an agreed outcome of the Conference for the Committee's consideration at its meeting in November.

44. The Secretary of the Committee presented the document indicating the resource requirements for both the preparatory process and the Conference to ensure smooth and efficient preparations (Information paper 3). The core requirements for the preparatory process and for the Conference itself (e.g., supporting the participation of representatives from eligible countries with economies in transition, consultancy to draft the two main substantive documents for the Conference and the participation of UNECE staff in preparatory meetings and in the Conference) would require raising about US\$ 312,000. Other costs related to preparing and servicing the Ministerial Conference, such as additional professional staff one year before the Conference and a number of UNECE activities carried out as an input into the Conference, would require further funds of some US\$ 730,000. Overall, about US\$ 1,042,000 would be needed, in addition to the US\$ 1,474,000 already available.

45. The representative of the host country informed the meeting that a detailed budget of the host country expenditures would be prepared and circulated to the Committee.

46. The Extended Bureau discussed resource requirements and requested the secretariat to prepare an updated version of the document for the seventeenth session of the Committee.

VI. Environmental programme performance 2010–2011

47. The Secretary to the Committee presented the document containing the environmental programme performance 2010–2011, including the proposed new indicator developed in response to a request by the sixteenth session of the Committee (Information paper 4). The new indicator measured the “intensity of capacity development in non-Parties for selected UNECE MEAs”.

48. The meeting welcomed the new indicator and approved the indicators of achievement for environmental programme performance in 2010–2011, with the understanding that the new indicator would be completed by the MEA colleagues concerned after the meeting. The report on progress achieved during the period 2010–2011 would be presented to the Committee at its eighteenth session.

VII. Calendar of meetings

49. The Extended Bureau considered and agreed on the schedule of its meetings as presented in annex II.

VIII. Summary of decisions by the Extended Bureau of the Committee

50. At its meeting, the Extended Bureau:

(a) Agreed on the overall structure of the agenda and dates of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference, that is, 21 to 23 September 2011 (2.5 days);

(b) Requested the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to further develop a draft outline of the Conference agenda for the seventeenth session of the Committee in November 2010;

(c) Requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to develop draft outlines of the official substantive documents on the two themes of the Conference for the seventeenth session of Committee;

(d) Requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to develop a draft framework of an agreed outcome of the Conference for the seventeenth session of the Committee;

(e) Agreed on the composition of the UNECE Steering Group on Environmental Assessments to oversee the preparation of the EEAOA report for the Astana EfE Ministerial Conference;

(f) Reviewed the environmental performance of Georgia and adopted related recommendations;

(g) Adopted the Guidelines for Developing National Strategies to Use Air Quality Monitoring as an Environmental Policy Tool developed by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;

(h) Approved the indicators of achievement for environmental programme performance in 2010–2011;

(i) Agreed on the schedule of its meetings for 2010–2011 (annex II).

IX. Closure of the meeting

51. The Extended Bureau requested the Bureau of the Committee and the secretariat to follow up on the decisions of the meeting. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

52. Documents and other materials from the session are available on the UNECE website, <http://www.unece.org/env/cep/ExtBureau16-17Mar2010.html>.

Annex I

Time frame for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Astana, 21–23 September 2011

Draft as of 17 March 2010 to be further developed by the Bureau of the Committee with support from the secretariat

<i>Tuesday, 21 September</i>	<i>Wednesday, 22 September</i>	<i>Thursday, 23 September</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Registration (...–...)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Morning session: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.</i> <u><i>Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Water governance (integrated water resources management, transboundary issues, institutional issues, water users)– Water-related ecosystems <p>Increased water challenges in the context of adaptation to climate change/extreme weather events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Morning session: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.</i> <u><i>Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Sustainable consumption and production– Energy efficiency and renewable energy– Green economic opportunities to improve competitiveness <p>EPRs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Opening of the Conference: 2–4 p.m.</i>▪ <i>Plenary session: 4–6 p.m.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">– History of the EfE process (20th anniversary)– Presentation of the EEAOA <p>Statements by Ministers and high-level representatives of the private sector and civil society highlighting the importance of the two main themes</p>	<p>Lunch break/side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Afternoon session: 3–6 p.m.</i> <u><i>Water and greening the economy</i></u><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Water quality and efficiency in urban, rural and industrial management and development– Green jobs and capacity-building <p>Redefining progress of countries, business</p>	<p>Lunch break/side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Afternoon session: 3–4 p.m.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Reporting back from the round-table discussions▪ <i>Closure of the Conference: 4–5 p.m.</i> <p>Adoption of Conference outcomes; wrap-up by the Chair</p>
<p>Official events/side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	<p>Official event — establishment of Environmental Information System (SEIS)/side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	

Annex II**Schedule of preparatory meetings for the Seventh
“Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

<i>Committee on Environmental Policy</i>	<i>Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy</i>
---	Extended Bureau meeting, Geneva, 19 May 2009
Sixteenth session, Geneva, 20–23 October 2009	Bureau meeting (back to back with the Committee session), 20 October 2009
---	Extended Bureau meeting, Geneva, 16–17 March 2010
Seventeenth session, Geneva, 2–5 November 2010	Bureau meeting (back to back with the Committee session), Geneva, 2 November 2010
Special session, Geneva, 24–27 May 2011	Bureau meeting (back to back with the Committee session), Geneva, 24 May 2011
Special session (back to back with the Conference), Astana, 20 September 2011	---
Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference Astana, 21–23 September 2011	
Eighteenth session, Geneva, March 2012	