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### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Twentieth session

Geneva, 28–31 October 2014

## Report of the Committee on Environmental Policy on its twentieth session

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The twentieth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) was held from 28 to 31 October 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **A. Attendance**

2. Delegations from 40 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) attended the meeting: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

3. The Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the following ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) participated in the CEP session: the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention); the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention); the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention); the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention); and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs).

4. From the United Nations system, representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) were present. Representatives from the following United Nations Regional Commissions participated in the meeting both by video call or teleconference and via a video statement: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

5. From the European Union (EU), representatives of the Council of EU, the European Commission, the EU Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Investment Bank participated.

6. Representatives from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Republic of Moldova were also in attendance.

7. In addition, representatives of the following environmental civil society associations participated: Eco-Accord; European ECO Forum; the European Environmental Bureau; the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL); the Ukrainian national environmental non-governmental organization MAMA-86; and Zoi Environment Network.

### **B. Opening of the session and organizational matters**

8. In his opening address to CEP, the ECE Executive Secretary emphasized that global goals and targets, and in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), would have a real effect only when converted into concrete recommendations, standards, statistics, conventions and policy instruments that could be and were used by countries. In that

regard, the ECE work on environment was of the utmost importance to the region — from Vladivostok to Alaska — and also to the rest of the world.

9. The Director of the Environment Division underlined the major global environmental challenges, highlighting the good work accomplished by CEP in support of countries' efforts to enhance environmental governance. Looking forward, it was hoped that the work of the Eighth Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference, to be held in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016, would provide a valuable contribution to improving the state of the environment in the pan-European<sup>1</sup> region.

10. The CEP Chair welcomed participants, recalling the main objectives of the session and noted that the meeting was to be a paperless event to the extent possible.<sup>2</sup>

11. Two side events were organized by UNEP on the margins of the session: "First Eastern Europe regional meeting on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns — taking action in the region" on 27 October; and "Outcome of the First United Nations Environment Assembly and its impact for UNEP work in the European region" on 28 October.

12. The agenda (ECE/CEP/2014/1) was adopted along with the proposed timetable (information paper No. 1).

13. CEP elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs (see para. 98 (b)), and expressed its appreciation to outgoing members of the Bureau, acknowledging their dedicated work on ECE environmental activities.

## **II. Outcomes of the work of the Bureau**

14. The Chair presented the report of the Bureau on the outcomes of its work from November 2013 to June 2014 (ECE/CEP/2014/3), in particular on:

- (a) Advancing preparations for the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference;
- (b) The ECE contribution to the European Environment and Health Process (EHP);
- (c) Updating the CEP criteria for financial support for participating in meetings and events;
- (d) Continuing the development of rules of procedure for CEP.

15. CEP expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its good work and for efficiently fulfilling its mandates, and to the ECE secretariat for its efficient and high-quality support to the Bureau.

## **III. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

16. The Principal Adviser to the ECE Executive Secretary, in her capacity as ECE focal point for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference)

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<sup>1</sup> The pan-European region under the EfE process covers the full membership of ECE, i.e., the 56 ECE member States.

<sup>2</sup> Information and documents concerning the twentieth session are available from [www.unece.org/env/cep/2014sessionoctober](http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2014sessionoctober).

and the post-2015 development agenda process, presented the recent developments in the ECE region in that regard. The outcomes of the regional consultation on the post-2015 development agenda “inclusive and sustainable development: perspectives from Europe and Central Asia on the post-2015 development agenda” (Istanbul, Turkey, 6–8 November 2013)<sup>3</sup> had contributed to the second meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 30 June–9 July 2014).

17. The sixty-sixth session of ECE (Geneva, 14–16 April 2015)<sup>4</sup> would be held under the overall theme “committing to action on sustainable development in times of change”, and its outcomes would constitute the regional contribution to the third meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (New York, 26 June–8 July 2015). CEP took note of the information provided.

18. The Director of the Environment Division briefed CEP about the organization of the high-level thematic discussion on the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources to be held during the upcoming ECE session. The discussion would highlight the key results of ECE work. That work included activities under the ECE MEAs related to setting standards and creating obligations regarding water, air, industrial accidents, public participation and access to information and justice, and environmental impact assessment, as well as environmental performance reviews (EPRs) to assess countries’ implementation of their environmental commitments and provide policy recommendations to improve their environmental governance.

19. The Acting Director of UNEP/ROE reported on UNEP activities in the region related to the post-2015 development agenda, including the work on sustainable consumption and production, and relevant outcomes of the first United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA). The events organized by UNEP on the margins of the CEP session examined in detail those clusters of activities. CEP expressed its appreciation to UNEP for organizing the two side events.

#### **IV. Multilateral environmental agreements**

20. The Chair of the informal meeting between the representatives of the governing bodies of ECE MEAs and CEP, together with the Vice-Chair of CEP from Belgium, outlined the relevant outcomes of the last informal meeting, held in Geneva on 27 October 2014, back to back to the CEP session. Among matters of common interest, participants had discussed enhancing synergies and joining efforts in promoting MEAs and the active involvement of MEAs in the Batumi Ministerial Conference. The Chair of the Water Convention would take over the chairmanship of the informal meetings to be organized in 2015.

21. In a panel discussion, MEA Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the ECE secretariat presented key developments in the process of promoting and opening the ECE MEAs to States outside the region, as well as regarding national implementation reporting. The subsequent dialogue was guided by the questions for discussion identified in the two background papers prepared by the secretariat (ECE/CEP/2014/6 and ECE/CEP/2014/16), which were welcomed by delegates. CEP welcomed progress made under each of the ECE MEAs, the “flagships” of ECE, including on national implementation reporting, promotion of the benefits of MEAs beyond the region and continuing progress in opening the MEAs to global accession (see para. 98 (g) and (h) below).

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<sup>3</sup> Information and documents are available at [www.worldwewant2015.org/EuropeCentralAsia](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/EuropeCentralAsia).

<sup>4</sup> Information and documents are available at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=35851](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35851).

22. The Acting Director of UNEP/ROE shared information on relevant UNEP MEAs, including regarding forthcoming conferences of the parties and the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury, which it was hoped would enter into force by 2016. There were many benefits that could be had from enhancing cooperation between the national focal points of UNEP, the ECE MEAs and CEP, inter alia, by increasing the use of the InforMEA platform.<sup>5</sup> He also drew attention to the UNEA resolution on strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality. CEP welcomed the information provided (see para. 98 (i)).

## V. Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

23. The ECE secretariat informed CEP about progress made in environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting activities carried out in 2014 by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. A key achievement had been the regular production and publishing by most of the target countries<sup>6</sup> of the majority of the ECE core set of environmental indicators.

24. The Working Group had developed guidelines for developing national strategies to use soil contamination monitoring as an environmental policy tool (ECE/CEP/2014/14) to support countries' work in improving the monitoring of soil and in using it for informed policymaking and decision-making in that regard. CEP adopted the guidelines and invited the target countries to implement them.

25. CEP greatly appreciated the work of the two bodies and extended their mandates for another year until the next session of CEP in October 2015. It requested the secretariat to submit the renewed mandates to the Executive Committee for approval. The mandate of the Working Group was expanded to include an additional task, i.e., to review progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) based on targets and performance indicators (ECE/CEP/2014/8) adopted by CEP at its current session.

26. In addition, CEP requested the secretariat to prepare for its next session a proposal for possible ways to streamline the work of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force, as well as potentially incorporating the responsibilities of the Group of Friends of SEIS, with a view to the coordination of activities and reinforcing the work on environmental monitoring and assessment. The secretariat proposal should address the pros and cons of merging those two bodies.

27. Concerning support to the activities under the environmental monitoring and assessment programme, CEP thanked the EU, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland for their financial support and invited member States and organizations to provide further in-kind and financial support.

28. The representative of UNEP/ROE reported on the preparations for the sixth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6), including a regional meeting to be organized in spring 2015 to prepare the European regional component of GEO-6.

29. CEP welcomed the information provided by UNEP on preparations for GEO-6, as well as its invitation to work in a collaborative manner with ECE and EEA on regional environmental assessments. CEP emphasized the importance of a close cooperation between the GEO and EfE processes to ensure synergies and forge mutual benefits in the area of environmental assessments in support of informed decision-making.

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<sup>5</sup> For more details please see <http://e-learning.informe.org/>.

<sup>6</sup> I.e., countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

## **VI. Cross-sectoral activities**

30. CEP was informed about recent developments under a number of ongoing cross-sectoral activities undertaken under the leadership of ECE, or in partnership with other organizations.

### **A. Education for sustainable development**

31. Regarding education for sustainable development (ESD), the secretariat presented the main outcomes of the ninth meeting of the ECE Steering Committee on ESD (Geneva, 3–4 April 2014), including progress in organizing the high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the Batumi Ministerial Conference, and preparations for the review of national implementation of phase III (2011–2015) of the ECE Strategy for ESD.

32. Furthermore, CEP was informed of the regional contribution to the Global Action Programme on ESD, prepared as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD for the World Conference on ESD (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10–12 November 2014), as well as the organization of a workshop and a side event on the margins of that Conference.

33. CEP took note of information provided and welcomed progress in the work under the ECE Strategy for ESD. Delegates supported the Steering Committee request to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the Batumi Conference to assess progress during the first 10 years of the Strategy, and to consider its future implementation.

### **B. Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

34. The representative of France presented the main outcomes of the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Paris, 14–16 April 2014). Discussions at the Paris Meeting had focused on policy mechanisms at the national and municipal levels to support sustainable and healthy urban mobility and transport, as well as new research, policy, actors and stakeholders (media, industry and civil society) to promote sustainable and healthy urban mobility.

35. Participants at the High-level Meeting had adopted the Paris Declaration, including a commitment to green and healthy mobility and transport for sustainable livelihoods for all and a new priority goal 5 to integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies. Delegates had also agreed on the workplan for the period 2014–2020 for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), including a new implementation mechanism — THE PEP Academy, a pan-European master plan to promote cycling and activities to foster stronger partnerships with city networks, civil-society organizations and the research community and mobilize young people and their organizations.

36. The secretariat presented highlights of THE PEP activities in 2014, including progress in preparing National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs); the organization of THE PEP relay-race workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania, in September 2014; forging THE PEP partnerships related to the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT); eco-driving training events in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation; promotion of cycling and of jobs in green and healthy transport; and the preliminary work on THE PEP Academy.

37. The representative of UNEP provided additional information on activities in the area of jobs in green and healthy transport, including key findings presented in a new publication produced in partnership by ECE, WHO, UNEP, Austria, France and Switzerland. The main conclusion of that work was that multiple social and environmental benefits could be delivered by unlocking the job creation potential of public transport, cycling and walking.

38. CEP took note of information provided, welcomed the progress under THE PEP and invited countries to consider hosting THE PEP relay-race workshop in 2015.

### **C. Environment and security**

39. The Director of the ECE Environment Division gave an overview of recent developments under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) (information paper No. 3). One of six ENVSEC partners, ECE had carried out numerous activities in 2014 to ensure countries cooperate in managing their shared natural resources, mostly focusing on advancing the implementation of the ECE MEAs — an important pillar of ENVSEC.

40. Activities related to water cooperation had included a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Chu-Talas Basin (shared by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) and the development of transboundary adaptation strategies for both the Dniester (shared by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and Neman Rivers (running through Belarus, Lithuania and the Russian Federation). In the Dniester Basin, monitoring and ecosystem restoration had started as part of a climate adaptation measure. Following dam accidents in Kazakhstan, legal and technical advice had been provided to increase the safety of existing water infrastructure in Central Asia. Assistance had also been given for the negotiation of a treaty between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Kura River, a key source of drinking water for the two countries.

41. To improve environmental democracy and governance, regional studies with targeted recommendations to improve access to environmental justice had been developed for six countries in South-Eastern Europe, and several projects had been carried out for Belarus, including a post-project environmental analysis of a chalk-mining operation bordering a Ukrainian national park.

42. To enhance the prevention of, preparation for and response to industrial accidents, there had been expert trainings on how to prepare industrial safety reports for four countries in South-Eastern Europe. In addition, a comparative analysis of hazard and crisis management legislation, policy and institutions had been produced for the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

43. The Acting Director of UNEP/ROE reported on recent developments related to the hosting of the coordination unit of the ENVSEC secretariat, as well as taking over the Chairmanship of ENVSEC from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe on 1 January 2015.

44. CEP took note of and welcomed the information provided with regard to ENVSEC.

### **D. European Environment and Health Process**

45. At its nineteenth session, CEP had requested the secretariat to follow up with the necessary actions with a view to appointing the four ministers from the environment sector to the third term of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB) (2015–2016). Accordingly, the secretariat had sent out official letters to the 53 ECE member States also members of WHO/Europe, inviting ministers of environment to inform



the secretariat of their interest in serving. Seven ministers of environment had expressed interest in serving on the third term of EHMB.

46. As a result of informal discussions on the margins of the meeting, agreements were reached between countries from subregions that had submitted a candidate to EHMB, resulting in the appointment of new members to EHMB (see para 98 (u) below). CEP thanked the outgoing members of EHMB for their contribution to the process.

47. Furthermore, following a request by CEP at its previous session, a panel discussion on EHP was held with the participation of the Chair of the European Environment and Health Task Force, the Alternate to EHMB from Croatia, the Chair of the Water Convention, the Executive Director of HEAL and the World Health Organization (WHO) Coordinator of EHP.

48. CEP welcomed the information provided during the panel discussion on EHP, and expressed appreciation to the panellists for their contributions. Participants acknowledged the importance of the effective cooperation between the environment and the health sectors, also within the framework of the EHP, and underscored the role of MEAs in achieving environment and health goals. Delegates furthermore acknowledged the role, and welcomed the participation, of civil society organizations and other non-governmental stakeholders in the process.

49. In addition, participants encouraged both CEP and EHP to continue to organize joint meetings, possibly including a tripartite meeting of the CEP Bureau, the EHMB Alternates and the ECE MEA Chairs, as well as to extend invitations to participate in each other's meetings. It was agreed to allocate time in the CEP agenda to discuss environment and health issues, as well as to contribute to the Mid-term Review Meeting of EHP (Haifa, Israel, April 2015) and the Sixth Environment and Health Ministerial Conference (2017). CEP also took note of the progress report on EHP (EUR/RC64/24 Rev.1).

## **E. Green building**

50. The secretariat presented the recent developments in the work on green building, including in the context of greening the economy. The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy,<sup>7</sup> adopted in December 2013, was a new policy tool to support countries in their efforts to green the forestry sector. In addition, the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry was considering the development of a set of indicators to measure green economy aspects in the forestry sector. Also, a study on incentives and disincentives for green building had been initiated, and a summary would be considered by the Forests Committee at its session in November 2014. Delegates took note of the information provided.

51. Furthermore, the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing — a non-legally binding instrument that aimed to support countries' efforts to ensure access to decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing for all — had been approved by the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management at its session in October 2014.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See [www.unece.org/index.php?id=37180&L=0](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=37180&L=0).

<sup>8</sup> See [www.unece.org/housing/charter.html](http://www.unece.org/housing/charter.html).

## **VII. Environmental Performance Review Programme**

### **A. Third Environmental Performance Review of Montenegro**

52. The Secretary to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) said that the Group had reviewed Montenegro's environmental performance on 30 September 2014 in Geneva. The review comprised eight chapters. Information paper No. 4 presented the EPR recommendations. Portugal had provided in-kind support (experts) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Montenegro office had provided local support.

53. The rapporteur (Estonia) summarized the main findings and recommendations of the EPR. Montenegro had made good progress in revising its legal, policy and institutional framework for the environment and sustainable development, with the process of accession to the EU as the key driver of those changes. A package of laws and corresponding secondary legislation had been adopted and a strategic framework for environment and sustainable development had been further developed. The establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in 2008 had been a breakthrough for the institutional set-up on environmental protection. However, the implementation of legislation lagged behind the intensive efforts to improve the legal and policy framework. Overall, waste management, wastewater treatment and adaptation to climate change remained among the most pressing challenges for Montenegro.

54. The General Director in the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro presented the key environmental challenges for her country, as well as the progress made since the second EPR of Montenegro in 2007. The third EPR had been useful in identifying strengths and remaining weaknesses in environmental governance, and the recommendations would help to tackle the most pressing challenges.

55. Following a discussion, CEP concluded the peer review by adopting the recommendations in the third EPR of Montenegro.

### **B. Third Environmental Performance Review of Serbia**

56. The Secretary to the Expert Group on EPRs said that the Group had reviewed Serbia's environmental performance on 1 October 2014 in Geneva. The review comprised eight chapters. Information paper No. 5 presented the EPR recommendations. Portugal had provided in-kind support (experts) and UNDP Serbia had provided local support.

57. The rapporteur (Sweden) summarized the main findings and recommendations of the EPR. Since its second review in 2007, Serbia had made good progress in enhancing its legal and policy framework on environment and sustainable development, including adopting an important package of environmental laws in 2009 on the basis of which more than 300 subsidiary regulations had been adopted. Among remaining major challenges were improving water management and tackling wastewater treatment, as well as implementing mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change.

58. The Senior Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia presented in detail the main environmental achievements, as well as the key challenges remaining, including with a view to greening the national economy. Since 2007, constant institutional changes in the environmental sector had unfortunately impacted the continuity of efforts to improve environmental policy and legislation and ensure effective implementation. In that regard, the newly established Ministry of

Agriculture and Environmental Protection would need to be further strengthened to enhance environmental governance.

59. Following a discussion, CEP concluded the peer review by adopting the recommendations in the third EPR of Serbia.

### **C. Overview of activities**

60. The Secretary to the Expert Group on EPRs presented an overview of the activities carried out under the ECE EPR programme during 2014. The recent EPRs of Croatia, Morocco and the Republic of Moldova had been published. Also, three review missions had taken place — in Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia — and two launch events had been organized, in Morocco and the Republic of Moldova.

61. CEP welcomed the information provided on activities under the ECE EPR Programme and the offer of Belarus to undergo a third EPR in 2015. CEP invited other ECE countries that were not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to inform the secretariat of their interest in undergoing a third EPR.

62. CEP also invited delegations to provide in-kind and financial support to the EPR Programme and expressed its appreciation to the Governments and contributing organizations for their financial and in-kind (expert) support — in particular thanking Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial support and France, the Netherlands, Portugal and UNEP for providing expertise.

63. CEP greatly appreciated the work of the ECE Expert Group on EPRs. It adopted the renewed mandate of the Expert Group for 2015–2018 (ECE/CEP/2014/13, annex) and requested the secretariat to submit the renewed mandate to the Executive Committee for approval. Also, it noted with appreciation Montenegro's application to the Expert Group on EPRs.

64. Delegates suggested that, when new members were chosen to the Expert Group on EPRs, due regard should be given to experts from countries that had recently been reviewed, as well as to those that had undergone or would soon undergo reviews. New members should have a minimum of 3 to 5 years of experience in two or three specific environmental sectors (e.g., water, waste and biodiversity), or 5 to 10 years of experience in environmental policy. Ad hoc experts were also welcome in case of particular interest for a country under review. However, the country providing ad hoc experts should notify the ECE secretariat for EPRs two months prior to the next meeting of the Expert Group. Requirements for ad hoc experts were the same as for regular experts.

## **VIII. Lessons learned from the Environment for Europe mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes**

65. At its last session, CEP had expressed satisfaction with the level of organization, the quality of documents and the outcomes of the EfE mid-term review. In that context, CEP had requested its Bureau and the ECE secretariat to follow up and assess the lessons learned from the organization of the review. In response to that request, and a subsequent request by the Bureau, a short assessment had been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

66. CEP welcomed the document presenting the lessons learned from the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes (ECE/CEP/2014/10), prepared by the CEP Bureau with support from the secretariat, and agreed to take into account the lessons

learned and the challenges identified during the organization of the next mid-term review, i.e., of the Batumi Ministerial Conference main outcomes.

## **IX. The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

### **A. Astana Water Action**

67. The secretariat presented the Astana Water Action (AWA) leaflet as well as the dedicated website ([www.unece.org/env/awa](http://www.unece.org/env/awa)) to improve water management, share knowledge about the state of water resources and track progress in ensuring the sustainability of water resources across the region, which had been developed in response to a request by CEP at its previous session.

68. Delegates welcomed the AWA leaflet and web portal, and invited countries to make use of those promotional tools, including for broadly promoting AWA at the national level. Furthermore, CEP agreed with the CEP Bureau recommendation that the AWA stakeholders should report on AWA progress to the CEP special session in February 2016.

### **B. Greening the economy**

69. The session on greening the economy started with presentations from other regional commissions — ECLAC, ESCAP and ECSWA — shared via a Skype<sup>9</sup> teleconference and a video clip on ongoing and planned activities to green the economy in those regions. Subsequently, the representative of Romania reported on the main outcomes of the First Eastern European Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), organized by UNEP on 27 October (back to back to the CEP session).

70. The ECE secretariat, together with the representative of UNEP, presented the updated report on progress in and future prospects for greening the economy in the pan-European region, including priorities for greening the economy in the region and possible modalities and options to achieve it (ECE/CEP/2014/5), prepared in consultation with other organizations.

71. In the ensuing discussion, CEP considered the issue of greening the economy in the region, including further steps and actions necessary to advance it. Participants welcomed the information presented by the regional commissions and acknowledged the developments and progress made towards greening the economy in those regions. CEP also welcomed the information provided on the main outcomes of the First Eastern European Meeting on the 10YFP, which would serve as a contribution to the preparatory process for the Batumi Ministerial Conference.

72. Delegates welcomed the report on progress in and future prospects for greening the economy in the pan-European region. CEP welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the ECE and UNEP secretariats with regard to activities to green economies and invited the two organizations to continue working together to support countries' efforts in greening the economy at both the pan-European and national levels.

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<sup>9</sup> Mention in this document of the names of firms and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

73. Furthermore, CEP invited ECE and UNEP, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders working on green economy, to elaborate a proposal for a pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy for consideration by CEP at its twenty-first session in October 2015. The proposed strategic framework should include practical examples, good practices and tools to be used for accelerating the transition to a green economy, while promoting a bottom-up approach. It should also build upon existing knowledge products and platforms and annex a proposal for a “Green Economy Action” similar to the Astana Water Action. The issue of whether or not to include goals and targets would be considered at the next CEP session.

### **C. Developing the Shared Environmental Information System**

74. The Secretary to the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment presented a document on the targets and performance indicators for measuring progress in developing SEIS across the pan-European region (ECE/CEP/2014/8), prepared by the Group of Friends of SEIS with support from the secretariat.

75. CEP welcomed the work of the Group of Friends of SEIS accomplished thus far (ECE/CEP/2014/7) and invited the Group to continue working on fulfilling the second part of its mandate given by CEP at its nineteenth session, i.e., to answer the question, “how should the regular environmental assessment process be organized and shaped, taking into consideration the benefits of SEIS?”.

76. Furthermore, CEP adopted the targets and performance indicators presented in document ECE/CEP/2014/8 and expressed its gratitude to the Friends of SEIS and to the secretariat for the excellent document. In that regard, CEP mandated the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, in accordance with its renewed amended mandate for 2015, to review the progress in developing SEIS based on those targets and performance indicators, with a view to preparing an evaluation report on progress made in developing SEIS in the pan-European region for the next EfE Ministerial Conference. A first report on that activity should be presented to CEP at its next session.

### **D. Host country preparations**

77. The First Deputy-Minister of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia addressed the meeting regarding the hosting of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, followed by a representative of the Georgian delegation, who informed participants about developments and concrete steps taken to organize the Conference in Batumi. One challenge encountered by the host country was the availability of a meeting room large enough to accommodate some 1,000 potential official delegates; there were two meeting rooms able to fit some 550 and 340 persons.

78. Delegates welcomed the progress in organizing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, and expressed gratitude to Georgia for offering to host the Conference in June 2016 and for the preparations so far. CEP decided to organize the Conference in Batumi, Georgia, from 8 to 10 June 2016.

### **E. Selection of the themes for the Conference**

79. The CEP Chair recalled the recommendation by the CEP Bureau regarding the two themes for the Conference, and noted that an updated proposal for the possible framework for the Conference had been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau (ECE/CEP/2014/9) to facilitate the selection of the two themes.

80. Delegates welcomed the document on the proposed framework for preparing the Batumi Ministerial Conference, as well as the information paper No. 9 on possible options for the format of group discussions prepared by the secretariat. Regarding the selection of themes for the Conference, CEP welcomed the recommendation by its Bureau and agreed on the following two themes for the Conference:

- (a) Greening the economy in the pan-European region;
- (b) Improving air quality for a better environment and human health.

81. CEP mandated the Bureau with support from the secretariat to prepare by 21 November 2014 a first proposal of not more than four questions for ministerial discussion under each of the two themes, taking into account the comments made by delegations during the current session, and requested that the proposal be circulated to CEP members and observers by e-mail.

82. Furthermore, CEP members and observers were invited to consider the Bureau proposal on the questions for discussion and to send their comments (keeping within the limit of up to four questions for discussion) to the Bureau via the secretariat as soon as possible, but by no later than 31 December 2014.

83. Subsequently, the Bureau, with support from the secretariat, was invited to consider the comments received and prepare, by 30 January 2015, a second proposal regarding questions for discussion, to be circulated to CEP members and observers for approval by e-mail as soon as possible, but by 23 February 2015 at the latest, with a view to enabling the preparation of the drafts of the two thematic background papers (one for each of the two themes).

84. The Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, was further invited to proceed with the necessary organization of the Conference, including preparing for the next session of CEP:

- (a) The first drafts of the two background thematic documents based on the questions for discussion to be agreed by the CEP Bureau;
- (b) A first draft of the provisional annotated agenda for the Conference;
- (c) Other documents that might be recommended by the Bureau.

85. UNEP and other stakeholders were also invited to contribute to the preparation of the Batumi Ministerial Conference.

## **F. Organizational issues**

86. The Chair informed the meeting that, following a request by the Bureau and based on the provisions of the EfE Reform Plan, the secretariat had prepared the organizational procedures for the Batumi Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2014/15).

87. CEP adopted the organizational procedures and requested the secretariat to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the organization of the Conference in consultation with the host country, in accordance with the provisions in the EfE Reform Plan and based on CEP decisions.

## **G. Resource requirements**

88. The Secretary to CEP presented an overview of resource requirements needed by the secretariat and the host country for organizing the Batumi Ministerial Conference (information paper No. 6 and addendum).

89. CEP invited countries and other stakeholders to consider the need for resource mobilization to assist the preparations by the host country and the secretariat and, in particular, thanked Norway for its financial contribution to support the ECE secretariat's activities under the EfE process. CEP also asked the host country and the secretariat to keep the CEP and its Bureau informed of the progress in that regard.

## **X. Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme**

### **A. Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme in 2014–2015**

90. The Chair recalled that, at its last session, CEP had approved the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme in 2014–2015, with the two amendments proposed by Lithuania on behalf of the EU and its member States, and had requested the secretariat to reissue the amended document for the present session of CEP. Document ECE/CEP/2014/4 contained the following amendments to document ECE/CEP/2013/4 previously approved in 2013:

(a) The new title of the document was “Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015”;

(b) Two additional indicators of achievement had been added under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) cluster of activities. The indicators were those proposed by Lithuania (on behalf of the EU member States) at the last session of CEP.

91. The Chair also informed the meeting that, as of June 2014, the cluster-based biennial performance assessment known as the biennial evaluation report had become discretionary for the ECE subprogrammes, per a new ECE evaluation policy. CEP agreed to continue with the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme for another cycle, at least, and approved the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015 (ECE/CEP/2014/4).

### **B. Criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events**

92. The Chair informed delegates that, because the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita for the ECE countries with economies in transition was not yet available for 2013, the CEP Bureau recommended to keep the criteria for financial support for participation in meetings and events adopted by CEP at its nineteenth session in October 2013 (ECE/CEP/2013/2, annex I), which used GDP per capita data for 2012. CEP agreed with the recommendation and decided to keep the criteria as adopted at its nineteenth session.

## **XI. Rules of procedure**

93. The Chair reported that, as mandated by CEP at its previous session, the Bureau with support from the secretariat had revised the draft rules of procedure of CEP (ECE/CEP/2014/L.1).

94. CEP expressed appreciation to its Bureau and the secretariat for the work to revise the draft rules of procedure and took note of the comments provided by delegations during the current meeting, including those circulated by e-mail. CEP mandated its Bureau with support from the secretariat to prepare a further revised draft, taking into account the comments received, for the next session of CEP. Delegates also agreed to send any future comments to the draft prepared by the Bureau at least one week before the next CEP session, i.e., by 19 October 2015.

## **XII. Calendar of meetings**

95. The CEP Chair presented information paper No. 8 containing the schedule of meetings of CEP and its Bureau for the period 2014–2017.

96. Delegations approved the proposed schedule, with one revision regarding the CEP Bureau meeting in 2015, and agreed to organize the twenty-first session of the Committee from 27 to 30 October 2015.

## **XIII. Other business**

97. The secretariat reported on activities carried out in 2014 to raise awareness and promote gender mainstreaming in environmental activities, including the organization of two lunch-time workshops at the ECE level. CEP took note of the information provided.

## **XIV. Summary of decisions**

98. At its twentieth session, CEP:

(a) Adopted the agenda of the twentieth session (ECE/CEP/2014/1), taking into account the proposed timetable, as presented in information paper No. 1;

(b) Elected a Chair and other members of its Bureau, as follows:

*Chair:*

Ms. Elisabete Quintas da Silva (Portugal)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Ms. Martine Rohn Brossard (Switzerland)

Ms. Caroline Broun (United States of America)

Ms. Marie-Charlotte Delvaux (Belgium)

Mr. Nicolas Fairise (France)

Ms. Maria Nagornii (Republic of Moldova)

Ms. Gordana Petkovic (Serbia)

Mr. Lukáš Pokorný (Czech Republic)

Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia)

Mr. Bulat Yessekin (Kazakhstan)



and decided to allocate an eleventh seat to a representative of an ECE member State from the Caucasus, Central Asia, or Eastern Europe (with States of the subregion to consult and submit their nomination to the CEP Bureau, via the secretariat, by 17 November 2014),<sup>10</sup> and expressed its appreciation to the work done by the Bureau members who stepped down;

(c) Expressed appreciation to the Bureau for its good work, and for efficiently fulfilling the mandates assigned to it by CEP, and to the ECE secretariat for the efficient and high quality support provided to the Bureau;

(d) Took note of the information provided regarding developments in ECE activities in follow-up to the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, as well as the regional contribution to the post-2015 development agenda;

(e) Took note of the information provided concerning the preparations for the sixty-sixth session of ECE in April 2015, including with regard to the high-level panel on sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources that would be organized during the session;

(f) Expressed appreciation to UNEP for organizing a side event on the activities of UNEP in the pan-European region, in particular in follow-up to the first session of UNEA;

(g) Took note of the information on the progress made under each of the ECE MEAs, including on national implementation reporting, promotion of the benefits of MEAs beyond the region and continuing progress in opening the MEAs to global accession, provided by the chairs of the ECE MEAs, and:

(i) Welcomed the document on the opening of the ECE environmental instruments and their promotion beyond the region (ECE/CEP/2014/6) prepared by the secretariat;

(ii) Welcomed the progress in promoting the benefits of the ECE MEAs beyond the region and continuing progress in opening several ECE MEAs to global accession;

(iii) Reaffirmed that the ECE MEAs were unique instruments for international environmental governance and, as such, were the flagships of ECE;

(iv) Welcomed the interest from non-ECE countries in ECE MEAs;

(v) Acknowledged the promotion of activities under the MEAs as an effective means of sharing positive experiences gained within the ECE region and offering possibilities to learn from those experiences;

(vi) Recognized the importance of the allocation of sufficient resources for the promotion of activities, and acknowledged the need to explore opportunities for mobilizing such resources through national funding, bilateral cooperation or other appropriate means;

(vii) Reiterated in that regard the request for a reallocation of financial resources within the ECE budget for the ECE Environment subprogramme and, in particular, for the secretariats of the MEAs;

(viii) Recognized the importance of cooperation with other United Nations regional commissions, as well as other international organizations, with respect to the

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<sup>10</sup> Subsequently, the representative of Belarus, Ms. Maryna Philipuyuk, was elected via e-mail.

promotion and opening of the ECE environmental instruments, with a view to ensuring synergies with other instruments and processes;

(ix) Welcomed initiatives by other regions aimed at replicating the content and objectives of ECE instruments;

(x) Also welcomed the overview of national implementation reporting under the MEAs (ECE/CEP/2014/16) prepared by the secretariat;

(xi) Recognized national implementation reporting as a valuable tool for monitoring implementation of the MEAs;

(xii) Welcomed the fulfilment of the reporting obligations by the majority of Parties;

(xiii) Noted with concern the failure by some Parties to meet their reporting obligations;

(xiv) Acknowledged challenges in relation to preparing good quality and timely national implementation reports, and the need to address those challenges;

(xv) Invited those countries that had not submitted a national implementation report or had not submitted one by the deadline for submission to address that matter at the national level, as appropriate, so as to improve their reporting in the future;

(h) Took note of the work carried out by the informal group of chairs and vice-chairs of the ECE MEAs and CEP, and encouraged future concrete outcomes in order to take advantage of synergies and possible common undertakings on cross-cutting issues;

(i) Welcomed the information provided by UNEP on key developments under the UNEP MEAs, and the potential for synergies with the ECE MEAs, as well as on the INFORMEA information network, which also encompassed the ECE MEAs;

(j) Greatly appreciated the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, and adopted the renewed mandate and terms of reference for the Working Group, as presented in annex II to document ECE/CEP/2014/11, with the following amendments:

(i) The mandate was renewed for one year, until the twenty-first session of CEP in October 2015;

(ii) In paragraph 2 an additional mandate was given to the Working Group, i.e., to review the progress in developing SEIS based on the targets and performance indicators (ECE/CEP/2014/8) adopted by CEP at its current session;

and requested the secretariat to submit the renewed mandate, as amended, to the Executive Committee for approval;

(k) Adopted the guidelines for developing national strategies to use soil contamination monitoring as an environmental policy tool (ECE/CEP/2014/14), and invited the target countries<sup>11</sup> to implement them;

(l) Greatly appreciated the work of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, and adopted the renewed mandate of the Task Force for one year until the twenty-first session of CEP in 2015, as presented in the annex to document ECE/CEP/2014/12, and requested the secretariat to submit the renewed mandate, as amended, to the Executive Committee for approval;

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<sup>11</sup> I.e., countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

(m) Requested the secretariat to prepare for the twenty-first session of CEP a proposal on possible ways to streamline the work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, as a well as potentially incorporating the responsibilities of the Group of Friends of SEIS, with a view to enhancing the coordination of activities and reinforcing the work on environmental monitoring and assessment. The proposal should take into account comments made by delegates at the twentieth session of CEP, including the request to consider the pros and cons of merging the two bodies;

(n) Invited member States and organizations to provide in-kind and financial support to the environmental monitoring and assessment programme, and in particular thanked the EU, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland for their financial support;

(o) Welcomed the information provided by UNEP on preparations for GEO-6, as well as its invitation to work in a collaborative manner with ECE and EEA on regional environmental assessments, and emphasized the importance of a close cooperation between the GEO and EfE processes with a view to ensuring synergies and forging mutual benefits in the area of environmental assessments in support of informed decision-making;

(p) Took note of information provided and welcomed progress in the work under the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, and supported the request by the Steering Committee on ESD to organize a high-level meeting of education and environment ministries in the framework of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference with a view to assess progress during the first 10 years of the Strategy, and to consider its future implementation;

(q) Took note of information provided and welcomed the progress of work under THE PEP and invited countries to consider hosting a THE PEP Relay Race Workshop in 2015;

(r) Took note of and welcomed information provided with regard to ENVSEC;

(s) Welcomed the information provided during the panel discussion on the European Environment and Health Process, and expressed appreciation to the panellist for their contributions, and:

(i) Acknowledged the importance of the effective cooperation between the environment and the health sectors, also within the framework of EHP;

(ii) Underscored the role of MEAs in achieving environment and health goals;

(iii) Acknowledged the role, and welcomed the participation, of civil society organizations and other non-governmental stakeholders in the process;

(iv) Encouraged both CEP and EHP to continue to organize joint meetings, possibly including a tripartite meeting of the CEP Bureau, EHMB Alternates and the ECE MEA Chairs, as well as to extend invitations to participate in each other's meetings;

(v) Agreed to allocate time in the CEP agenda to discuss environment and health issues;

(vi) Agreed to contribute to the Mid-term Review of EHP (Haifa, Israel, March 2015) as well as to the Sixth Environment and Health Ministerial Conference (2017);

(vii) Took note of the progress report on the European Environment and Health Process (EUR/RC64/24 Rev.1);

- (t) Thanked outgoing members of EHMB for their contribution to the process;
- (u) Appointed new members to the EHMB, as follows:
  - (i) Mr. Sergey Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Russian Federation (for 2015–2016);
  - (ii) Mr. Aramayis Grigoryan, Minister of Nature Protection, Armenia (for 2015–2016);
  - (iii) Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro (for 2015);
  - (iv) Mr. Nurhan Izairi, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (for 2016);
  - (v) Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Minister for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, Portugal (for 2015–2016);
- (v) Took note of the information provided on activities of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, in particular on the progress of work on green building and the work on greening the forestry sector;
- (w) Adopted the recommendations in the Third EPR of Montenegro (information paper No. 4);
- (x) Adopted the recommendations in the Third EPR of Serbia (information paper No. 5);
- (y) Welcomed the information provided on activities under the ECE EPR Programme, and invited ECE countries that were not members of OECD to inform the secretariat of their interest in undergoing a third EPR;
- (z) Invited delegations to provide in-kind (expert) and financial support, to the EPR Programme, in line with the resource needs presented by the ECE secretariat, and in particular thanked Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial support, and France, the Netherlands, Portugal and UNEP for providing expertise;
- (aa) Welcomed the offer of Belarus to undergo a third EPR in 2015;
- (bb) Noted with appreciation Montenegro's application to the EPR Expert Group;
- (cc) Greatly appreciated the work of the ECE Expert Group on EPRs, adopted the renewed mandate of the Expert Group for 2015–2018 contained in the annex to document ECE/CEP/2014/13, and requested the secretariat to submit the renewed mandate to the Executive Committee for approval;
- (dd) Welcomed the document presenting the lessons learned from the EfE mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes (ECE/CEP/2014/10), prepared by the CEP Bureau with support from the secretariat, and agreed to take into account the lessons learned and challenges identified during the organization of the next mid-term review;
- (ee) Welcomed the overall progress in preparing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference and, in the framework of the EfE process:
  - (i) Welcomed the AWA promotional leaflet and web portal ([www.unece.org/env/awa](http://www.unece.org/env/awa)), and invited countries to make use of those promotional tools, including for broadly promoting AWA at the national level;

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- (ii) Agreed with the CEP Bureau recommendation that the AWA stakeholders should report on AWA progress to the CEP special session in February 2016;
- (iii) Welcomed the document, “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: progress, priorities, modalities and options” (ECE/CEP/2014/5), prepared by the ECE and UNEP secretariats, in consultation with other organizations;
- (iv) Welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the ECE and UNEP secretariats with regard to activities to green economies, and invited the two organizations to continue working together to support countries’ efforts in greening the economy at both the pan-European and national levels;
- (v) Invited ECE and UNEP, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders working on green economy, to elaborate a proposal for a pan-European strategic framework for greening the economy for consideration by CEP at its twenty-first session in October 2015. The proposed strategic framework should include practical examples, good practices and tools to be used for accelerating the transition to a green economy, while promoting a bottom-up approach. It should also build upon existing knowledge products and platforms, and annex a proposal for a “Green Economy Action” similar to the Astana Water Action. The issue of whether or not to include goals and targets would be considered at the next CEP session;
- (vi) Welcomed the information provided on the main outcomes of the first Eastern European Meeting on the 10YFP, organized by UNEP on 27 October 2014, which would serve as a contribution to the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference;
- (vii) Welcomed the information presented by the regional commissions, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA, and acknowledged the developments and progress towards greening the economy in those regions;
- (ff) Welcomed the work of the Group of Friends of SEIS accomplished thus far (ECE/CEP/2014/7) and:
- (i) Invited the Group to continue working on fulfilling the second part of the mandate given by the CEP at its nineteenth session, i.e., to answer the question, “how should the regular environmental assessment process be organized and shaped, taking into consideration the benefits of SEIS?”;
- (ii) Adopted the targets and performance indicators as presented in document ECE/CEP/2014/8, and expressed its gratitude to the Friends of SEIS and to the secretariat for the excellent document;
- (iii) Mandated the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, in accordance with its renewed, amended mandate for 2015, to review the progress in developing SEIS based on the targets and performance indicators adopted by CEP at its current session, with a view to preparing an evaluation report on progress made in developing SEIS in the pan-European region for the next EfE Ministerial Conference. A first report on that activity should be presented to CEP at its next session;
- (gg) Welcomed the progress in organizing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference and, in that regard:
- (i) Expressed gratitude to Georgia for offering to host the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference in Batumi in June 2016, and welcomed the preparations by the host country;

- (ii) Decided to organize the Conference in Batumi, Georgia, from 8 to 10 June 2016;
- (iii) Adopted the organizational procedures for the Conference as presented in document ECE/CEP/2014/15;
- (iv) Requested the secretariat to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the organization of the Conference in consultation with the host country, in accordance with the provisions in the EfE Reform Plan and based on CEP decisions;
- (v) Invited countries and other stakeholders to consider the need for resource mobilization to assist the host country and the secretariat preparations (information paper No. 6 and addendum), in particular thanking Norway for its financial contribution to support the ECE secretariat's activities under the EfE process, and asked the host country and the secretariat to keep CEP and its Bureau informed on the progress in that regard;
- (vi) Welcomed the document on the proposed framework for preparing the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2014/9) prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the CEP Bureau, and information paper No. 9 on possible options for the format of group discussions, prepared by the secretariat;
- (vii) Welcomed the recommendation by the CEP Bureau on the two themes for the Batumi EfE Ministerial Conference, and agreed on the following two themes for the Conference:
  - a. Greening the economy in the pan-European region;
  - b. Improving air quality for a better environment and human health;
- (viii) Mandated the Bureau with support from the secretariat to prepare by 21 November 2014 a first proposal of not more than four questions for ministerial discussion under each of the two themes, taking into account the comments made by delegations during the current session, and requested that the proposal be circulated to CEP members and observers by e-mail;
- (ix) Invited CEP members and observers to consider the Bureau proposal on the questions for discussion and to send their comments (keeping within the limit of up to four questions for discussion) to the Bureau via the secretariat as soon as possible, but by no later than 31 December 2014;
- (x) Invited the CEP Bureau, with support from the secretariat, to consider the comments received and prepare, by 30 January 2015, a second proposal regarding questions for discussion, to be circulated to CEP members and observers for approval by e-mail, as soon as possible, but by 23 February 2015 at the latest, with a view to enabling the preparation of the drafts of the two thematic background papers (one for each of the two themes);
- (xi) Invited the CEP Bureau, with support from the secretariat and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to proceed with the preparation of the Eighth EfE Ministerial Conference, including preparing for the next session of CEP:
  - a. The first drafts of the two background thematic documents based on the questions for discussion to be agreed by the CEP Bureau;
  - b. A first draft of the provisional annotated agenda for the Conference;
  - c. Other documents that might be recommended by the Bureau;
- (xii) Invited UNEP and other stakeholders to contribute to preparations of the next EfE Conference;

(hh) Expressed appreciation to the CEP Bureau and the secretariat for the work on the draft rules of procedure of CEP (ECE/CEP/2014/L.1), and took note of the comments provided by delegations during the current meeting, including those circulated by e-mail, and mandated the CEP Bureau with support from the secretariat to prepare a further revised draft, taking into account the comments received, for the next session of CEP. And also agreed to send any possible future comments to the draft prepared by the Bureau, at least one week before the next CEP session, i.e. by 19 October 2015;

(ii) Agreed with the recommendation by the CEP Bureau and decided to keep the criteria for financial support as adopted by CEP at its nineteenth session (ECE/CEP/2013/2, annex I);

(jj) Agreed to continue with the biennial performance assessment of the Environment subprogramme for another cycle, at least, and approved the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015 (ECE/CEP/2014/4), which contains the following amendments to document ECE/CEP/2013/4 previously approved in 2013:

(i) The new title of the document would be “Biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015”;

(ii) Two additional indicators of achievement — as proposed by Lithuania (on behalf of the EU member States) at the last session of CEP — would be included under the Espoo Convention cluster of activities;

(kk) Approved the proposed schedule of CEP and CEP Bureau meetings for the period 2014–2017 (information paper No. 8), with one revision regarding the CEP Bureau meeting in 2015, and agreed to organize the twenty-first session of the Committee from 27 to 30 October 2015;

(ll) Took note of the information provided with respect to gender mainstreaming in environmental activities carried out by the Environment Division since the last session of CEP;

(mm) Requested its Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the CEP decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the work of the CEP at its twenty-first session;

(nn) Expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for an excellent organization of the meeting.

## **XV. Closure of the meeting**

99. The CEP Chair with support from the secretariat compiled a summary of the outcomes of the work of and decisions made by CEP at its twentieth session, which was projected on the screen in the meeting room. Following discussion, the draft summary was finalized and approved. The approved summary was circulated to CEP by e-mail on Monday, 3 November 2014, and is reproduced in section XIV above.<sup>12</sup>

100. CEP requested its Bureau and the secretariat to follow up on the CEP decisions, including by preparing the documents and reports necessary for the work of the CEP at its twenty-first session. Furthermore, delegates expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for an excellent organization of the meeting.

<sup>12</sup> The text has been officially edited since adoption. Any changes are strictly editorial and do not affect the substance of the decisions.

101. The Chair informed CEP that the report of the present meeting and the list of participants would be posted on the ECE website after the meeting. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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