



# Environment for Europe



## Sixth Ministerial Conference



Belgrade, Serbia, 10-12 October 2007

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Government of Serbia

EfE Newsletter No. 2 - June 2007

### NEWS FROM THE HOST COUNTRY



Saša Dragin

On 15 May 2007 the new Government of Serbia was formed. *Mr. Saša Dragin* has been appointed Minister of Environmental Protection.

*Mr. Aleksandar Vesic*, Assistant Minister for Environmental Planning and Management, will be chairing the upcoming Drafting Group, WGSO and Executive Committee sessions.



Aleksandar Vesic

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ARE ENTERING THE FINAL PHASE

### Agenda of the Conference

The preparations for the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (EfE), to be held in Belgrade on 10-12 October 2007, entered their final phase with the fourth meeting of the preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) held at the end of May 2007.

The WGSO discussed and adopted the agenda of the Belgrade Conference and the organization of work at the Conference. All Governments are invited to submit to the secretariat their expressions of interest in delivering a keynote address or chairing a session at the Conference.

### Documents

The documents for action by ministers (category I) and background documents (category II) were discussed and broadly approved. A few of them will be revised and amended by authors and thereafter submitted for the Conference.

At least two meetings of a Drafting Group will be held over summer 2007 to prepare a draft Ministerial Declaration. It is expected that the Declaration would be short and will address major issues to be discussed in Belgrade.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS UP TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE

- **2-3 July 2007, Geneva**  
*Second meeting of the Drafting Group for preparing the Ministerial Declaration*
- **30 (a.m.) August 2007, Geneva**  
*Fifth meeting of the WGSO*
- **30 (p.m.)-31 August 2007, Geneva**  
*Third meeting of the Drafting Group for preparing the Ministerial Declaration*
- **6-8 October 2007, Belgrade**  
(to be confirmed in line with actual needs)  
*Sixth meeting of the WGSO (if necessary)*  
*Seventh meeting of the EXECOM (if necessary)*  
*Fourth meeting of the Drafting Group (if necessary)*
- **10-12 October, Belgrade**  
*Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"*



## PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE

“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE”					
Evaluation and Implementation		Capacity-Building and Partnerships		The Way Forward	
Day 1 (Wednesday, 10 October 2007)		Day 2 (Thursday, 11 October 2007)		Day 3 (Friday, 12 October 2007)	
Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic	Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic	Time	Agenda item/sub-item/topic
9 a.m.- 10 a.m.  10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<b>Official opening of the Conference</b> (1 hr) <i>(plenary session)</i>  <b>Assessment and implementation</b> (3 hrs) <i>(plenary session)</i>  (a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment (2 hrs)  (b) Implementation of Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and findings of ECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) (1 hr)	9 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<b>Capacity-building (4 h)</b> (a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of the EECCA Strategy and of the Central Asian Initiative for Sustainable Development (2 hrs) <i>(plenary session and panel discussion)</i>  (b) South Eastern European (SEE) perspectives (2 hrs) <i>(plenary session)</i>	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	<b>The future of the EfE process</b> (2.½ hrs) <i>(plenary session)</i> Ministerial Declaration (including the future of the process)  <b>Closure of the Conference</b> (½ hr) <i>(plenary session)</i> Chairperson's Summary
1 p.m.- 2.30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	1 p.m.- 3 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	1 p.m.- 3 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2.30 p.m.- 6.30 p.m.	SPECIAL SESSIONS  <b>Education for sustainable development *</b> (2 hrs) <i>(joint session)</i>  <b>Biodiversity **</b> (2 hrs) (roundtable of NGOs and ministers)	3 p.m.- 7 p.m.	<b>Partnerships</b> (4 hrs) <i>(two consecutive roundtables)</i> (a) Environmental policy and international competitiveness and finance (2 hrs)  (b) Partnerships to support the implementation of environmental policy (2 hrs)		

\* A joint session of environment and education ministers from member States that adopted the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Vilnius (March 2005), and other interested member States

\*\* Round table of NGOs and ministers from interested member States prepared jointly by the Council of REBLDS and the European ECO-Forum

### Communication and press

To enhance the visibility of the Conference, both the UNECE secretariat and the host country secretariat are developing handout informational materials. For easy access to the Conference materials and information about the preparation process a direct link has been placed on the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/>.

Representatives of the media should submit an accreditation form directly to the Belgrade secretariat by 1 September 2007. The host country will provide further information on media registration at <http://www.efebelgrade2007.org/>.

### Special Workshop for Journalists

A special workshop for journalists will be organized on 9 October 2007 back-to-back with the Conference. The main objective of the workshop will be to raise the awareness of journalists from the UNECE region on the issues to be addressed by the Belgrade Conference and enhance their capacity to report on the key environmental issues and decisions to be adopted at the Conference. The workshop will be held in English only and will be open to all journalists accredited to the Conference.

### Side Events and Exhibitions

To this date the host country has registered some 54 side events that will take place during the course of the Conference. The schedule of the side events and exhibitions will be available at the host country website <http://www.efebelgrade2007.org/> in early July 2007. Organizers of the side events and exhibitions are welcome to contact the host country secretariat directly regarding any practical arrangements.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

1 July 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Submission to the UNECE secretariat of the registration form for the Conference by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, other major groups</li><li>✓ Expression of interest from Governments in delivering a keynote address or chairing a session at the Conference</li><li>✓ One-page summaries of Category I and II documents, revised in the light of comments received at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the fourth meeting of the WGSO</li><li>✓ Category I documents, revised in the light of the comments received at the fourteenth session of the CEP and the fourth meeting of the WGSO</li></ul>
1 September 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Submission to the host country of media registrations</li></ul>
14 September 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Translation, reproduction and delivery to Belgrade of sufficient numbers of copies of Category II documents and submission of the electronic versions to the UNECE secretariat for posting on the web-site</li></ul>

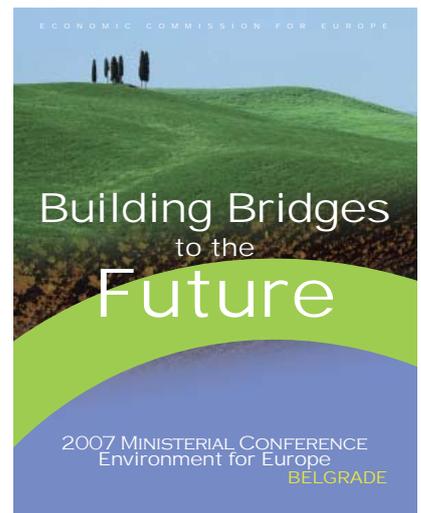
## INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES

- The Conference is open to all 56 member States of the UNECE. National delegations should include representatives of both environmental and education ministries, and may also include representatives of the major groups (NGOs, business, academia). Each Government should designate a national focal point who will collect and consolidate all registration forms from national delegates and send them to the secretariat. Together with the registration forms Governments are requested to send to the UNECE secretariat a notification letter containing a list of the nominees signed by the Minister of environment or other designated national official as appropriate. Since no legally binding documents are to be adopted at the Conference, no full powers for signature are required.

*Note: Only 10 delegates from every national delegation may be present at the plenary at any one time.*

- Up to 200 representatives of NGOs may attend the Conference's roundtable of NGOs and Ministers on Biodiversity, and up to 75 representatives may be present at any given time at all official sessions. Delegates from NGOs should contact the European ECO-Forum that is organizing the NGO registration process to the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" - <http://www.eco-forum.org/Belgrade/ngo-registration.htm>.
- Intergovernmental organizations and other international organizations that participate regularly in UNECE activities and in activities included in the "Environment for Europe" process may participate in the Conference. Representatives of these organizations should submit a registration form to the UNECE secretariat - [efe@unece.org](mailto:efe@unece.org).
- Major groups (women's, children's and youth organizations; indigenous people's groups; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological societies; farmers' unions as defined by Agenda 21 (United Nations, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) whose activities have direct relevance to the Conference agenda may participate in the Conference. Eligible major groups should submit their registration forms to the UNECE secretariat.

*Note: It is important to provide fully completed registration forms on time in order to allow the host country to issue the necessary invitation letters.*



More information on the "Environment for Europe" process is available at its official website <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/welcome.html>.

More information on the preparations for the Conference is available at <http://www.unece.org> and <http://www.efe-belgrade2007.org/>.

For inquiries, please contact [efe@unece.org](mailto:efe@unece.org).