

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

REPORT ON THE ELEVENTH SESSION
13-15 October 2004

Annex V

**MANDATE FOR THE WORKING GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR
THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"**

1. Pursuant to the Declaration by the Ministers of the Environment of the UNECE region at Kiev on 23 May 2003, the "Environment for Europe" process remains essential as a political framework for cooperation in environmental protection in Europe. It was agreed that it should continue to promote the achievement of policy objectives through regional and subregional cooperation; to strengthen the implementation of environmental instruments; to improve cooperation among regional programmes; to mobilize financial resources to support the implementation of regional environmental instruments and subregional initiatives; to support interregional cooperation; to contribute to the UNECE regional implementation of the global sustainable development process; and to improve and strengthen monitoring and assessment in the region.
2. For the preparation of the next Ministerial Conference, which will take place in Serbia and Montenegro in September or October 2007, and as agreed at Kiev, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy has established the open-ended Working Group of Senior Officials, under the chairmanship of the host country.
3. The Working Group will hold its first session in October 2005 in conjunction with the twelfth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. Thereafter, the Working Group will meet as often as necessary, subject to the availability of budgetary resources, and keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed of its progress.
4. The Executive Committee, which will be established by the Working Group of Senior Officials at its first session, will be composed of representatives of eight UNECE member States, including one from South-Eastern Europe (the host country); two from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia,¹ one from North America and four from other UNECE member States.
5. The Working Group also invites participation in the Executive Committee from: the Chair of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, one of the co-Chairs of the OECD Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP Task Force),

¹ As identified in paragraph 15 of the Kiev Declaration.

the Chair of the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), and the Chair of the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; a representative of the Presidency of the European Union, a senior representative of the European Commission, a senior representative of EcoForum and one senior representative from the regional environmental centres.

6. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the host country and the secretariat services will be provided by UNECE. The Executive Committee may invite other organizations to participate in the preparations pending a decision on the theme of the Belgrade Conference.

7. The Working Group is responsible for the substantive preparations for the 2007 Ministerial Conference, including its agenda, and, in the run-up to the Conference, will serve as the central coordinating body for the further development of the "Environment for Europe" process. The Working Group will consider work undertaken to implement the recommendations and the decisions of the Kiev Conference. Proposals for the work of the Working Group, including time schedules, will be presented at its first session.

8. Considering the large amount of substantive work to be done, as discussed in chapter IV of the Kiev Declaration on the future of the process, the Working Group will work in close cooperation with all international organizations and institutions, international financial institutions, international non-governmental and private sector organizations that will be involved in or contribute to the preparations of the 2007 Ministerial Conference. The Working Group invites all organizations to participate actively.

9. The Working Group will submit the documents prepared under its auspices or in cooperation with other international organizations and institutions, including the draft ministerial declaration, to the 2007 Ministerial Conference in Serbia and Montenegro for consideration and possible adoption. The Working Group will keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed of the preparation of the documents for the Conference.

10. The Working Group may set up expert groups to elaborate specific issues, when necessary.

11. The UNECE secretariat will provide the necessary secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in accordance with UNECE rules and practices.
