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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials
“Environment for Europe”
Executive Committee

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 14-15 February 2007
Agenda item 3

**DRAFT ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE: BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE”

to be held at the Sava Center, Belgrade
beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 October 2007

This first draft of the provisional agenda is submitted by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson at the request by the Executive Committee (ECE/CEP/AC.11/EXECOM/2006/3, paragraph 7).

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda
2. Assessment and Implementation
3. Education for sustainable development
4. Biodiversity
5. Capacity Building
6. Partnerships
7. The future of the “Environment for Europe” process
8. Closure of the Conference

II. ANNOTATIONS

DAY I. EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Item 1. Official opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda (9 a.m. – 10 a.m.) (*Plenary session, 1 hour*)

A High-level representative of Serbia would open the Conference. The Conference would adopt its provisional agenda.

Category I document:

- *Annotated provisional agenda for the Conference (ECE/...)*

Category II document:

- *Compilation of Executive Summaries of the major reports for the Belgrade Conference (ECE/...)*

Item 2. Assessment and Implementation¹ (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

(a) State of the environment and monitoring and assessment (*Plenary session, 2 hours*)

This session would set the scene for the Conference. The session would be opened with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes).

The current state of Europe's environment, the key trends and the main areas of achievements and concern would be identified in a presentation by the European Environment Agency (EEA) of its fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of environment (Belgrade assessment) (up to 15 minutes).

Following the presentation the floor would be opened for discussion² (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

The Conference would be expected to take relevant decisions on the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *“Europe's environment: the fourth assessment” report (Belgrade report) and its Executive summary (ECE/...)*
- *Recommendations to governments of Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries for the application of environmental indicators and the preparation of indicators-based environment assessment reports (ECE/...) endorsing:*
 - *Guidelines for the application of environmental indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/...)*

¹ The Kiev commitments would be considered under each of the agenda items, as relevant.

² The list of speakers will be opened closer to the Conference. However, member States are welcome to already inform the secretariat of their interest in delivering key speeches in accordance with the draft provisional agenda for the Conference.

- Guidelines on the preparation of indicators-based environment assessment reports (ECE/...)

- *Guidelines for strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises (ECE/...)*
- *Guiding principles for environmental integrated permitting³ (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *Analytical and strategic paper on state of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on “Monitoring what Matters: Tailoring water, sanitation and environmental sustainability targets and indicators to Europe and Central Asia region conditions”. (ECE/...)*

(b) Implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Environmental Performance Review (Plenary session, 1 hour)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by two keynote addresses, one by a minister from the EECCA subregion, the other by a minister from the SEE subregion (up to 10 minutes per keynote address).

Thereafter, the floor would be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

The Conference would be expected to take relevant decisions on the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *Report and recommendations on implementation of the MEAs (ECE/...)*
- *Report and recommendations on EPRs (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *Analytical report on progress in the ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the SEE region. (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on progress in the ratification and implementation of the PRTR⁴ Protocol (ECE/...)*

³ Category is still to be confirmed.

⁴ Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

PARALLEL PROCESSES

Item 3. Education for sustainable development (2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.) (*Plenary session, 2 hours*)

This session would be a joint session of environment and education ministers and high-level officials that adopted the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Vilnius (March 2005), and those from other interested member States.

The session with the title “Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward” would open with remarks by the Chairperson⁵ (up to 5 minutes), followed by three keynote addresses⁶, one by an education minister, another by an environment minister and the third by a high-level representative from UNESCO (up to 5 minutes per keynote address). Thereafter, the key findings of the report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD would be presented (up to 10 minutes).

Delegates would be invited to engage in interactive discussions from the floor (up to 3 minutes per intervention). To have a practical discussion, the debates will be divided into two parts addressing (a) challenges and (b) the way forward, with a focus on the implementation of the Strategy in phases II and III. They would be expected to discuss the main concerns relating to the implementation of ESD with a focus on achievements, challenges and future steps in terms of reaching the six objectives of the UNECE Strategy. Points for discussion would include:

- support of ESD by policy, regulatory and operational frameworks (including cooperation between the environment and education sectors and other relevant sectors);
- promotion of sustainable development through formal, non-formal and informal learning;
- building the competence of educators;
- ensuring the accessibility of tools and materials for ESD;
- promotion of research on and development of ESD;
- cooperation for the Strategy’s implementation (partnerships; regional and sub-regional; links with relevant initiatives in other regions and with global processes; needs of countries with economies in transition).

Ministers might wish to decide on the strategic direction for the continuation of the process after the Conference and adopt a statement on ESD.

The Chairperson would summarize the discussion and present it in the form of a Chairperson’s summary. The summary would focus on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made in implementation. The summary would also highlight ways to improve the effectiveness of ESD implementation in the UNECE region and globally.

Category I documents:

⁵ The Steering Committee on ESD, at their second meeting (4-5 December 2006) agreed on the Chairmanship by Greece for the formal session.

⁶ Pending confirmation by the fourth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on ESD (19 February 2007).

- *Joint statement on ESD by Ministers of Education and of the Environment (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *First report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD based on responses from countries (ECE/...)*
- *Compilation of good practices in ESD (ECE/...)*

Item 4. Biodiversity⁷ (4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.) (Roundtable, 2 hours)

This session would be held in a format of a round table of ministers participating in the PEBLDS process, NGOs, representatives of civil society, and economic and financial sectors, prepared jointly by the PEBLDS and European ECO-Forum, to review the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity.

The roundtable would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes). The achievements, challenges and needs for the pan-European region would be assessed and recommendations would be made to support the follow up of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and delivery of the 2010 target by pan-Europe. The lessons learned from the successful implementation of regional, sub-regional, national and local activities would be shared by the stakeholders.

Along with governments, international and national environmental NGOs and networks, regional and local governments (i.e. municipalities), farmers' and landowners' associations, private forest and civil society organisations would be invited to participate at the session.

The special session would be organised in discussion blocks with keynote presentations on crucial themes of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity⁸.

Category I documents:

- *Belgrade Statement by the Ministers participating in the PEBLDS process (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Kiev Resolution on Biodiversity (ECE/...)*
- *Technical and political progress report on the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) (ECE/...)*
- *Strategic paper and stakeholders' recommendations on policies and practices for biodiversity conservation and PEBLDS in Pan-European region (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on biodiversity in SEE subregion (ECE/...)*

⁷ The PEBLDS, through its Joint Secretariat (UNEP and Council of Europe), together with the European ECO-Forum will develop the structure of the agenda for the biodiversity session, as well as identify keynote speakers and participants for the presentations.

⁸ The final issues for discussion are to be confirmed. The aim is to focus on a few topics in order to provide a clear political message to the Conference.

DAY II. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Item 5. Capacity building (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

(a) Progress and perspectives in implementation of EECCA Strategy⁹ (Panel discussion, 2 hours)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by the presentation of the report assessing the progress in implementing the EECCA Strategy by the Chairperson of the EAP Task Force (up to 10 minutes). The assessment would provide a deeper analysis of both the progress achieved and causes of failure in the implementation of commitments by EECCA countries, as well as set a realistic road map on how to overcome these problems, including policies for capacity building.

Following the presentation of the report a panel¹⁰ would discuss its key findings (up to 10 minutes per panellist). Thereafter, the floor would be opened for discussion (up to 5 minutes per intervention).

The Conference would be expected to consider the key findings of the assessment. The Conference would be also invited to agree on the further implementation of the EECCA Strategy and possible needs to amend it.

Depending on the documents submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee other issues¹¹ relevant to the EECCA subregion could be addressed within this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *Assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy and its Executive summary (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *Progress report on Partnerships (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Assessment of reform of environmental compliance assurance systems in EECCA (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on financing the water supply and sanitation sector in EECCA countries, including progress in achieving water-related Millennium Development Goals (ECE/...)*
- *Progress report on the EU Water Initiative – EECCA (ECE/...)*
- *Progress report on the LEAP¹² process in the EECCA by EECCA RECs (ECE/...)*

⁹ Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE region: Environment Strategy for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Strategic Framework (ECE/CEP/105/Rev.1).

¹⁰ It is proposed that the panel be composed of three or four ministers from the EECCA subregion and be moderated by an eminent person from the same subregion.

¹¹ Such as the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and the Central Asia Mountain Initiative.

¹² Local environmental action programmes.

- *Background report on mountain initiative*¹³ (ECE/...)

(b) SEE perspectives (Plenary session, 2 hours)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes) followed by keynote addresses by three ministers from the SEE countries on the selected priority issues for this subregion¹⁴: climate change; environmental enforcement and compliance; and environmental investments.

Thereafter, the floor would be opened for discussion (up to 3 minutes per intervention).

The Conference would be expected to take relevant decisions on the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *The legal framework for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in SEE (ECE/...)*¹⁵

Category II documents:

- *Analytical report on Common capacity building needs in climate change in SEE (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on MEAs implementation and compliance in the SEE (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Municipal environmental investments in the SEE (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Marine pollution from coastal based sources / Adriatic Sea partnership survey (ECE/...)*
- *Western Balkans regional environmental report (ECE/...)*
- *Background report on SEE mountain initiative (ECE/...)*

Item 6. Partnerships (3 p.m. – 7 p.m.)

(a) Environmental Policy and International Competitiveness (Roundtable, 2 hours)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes), followed by the UNECE presentation of the key findings on environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the ECE region (up to 10 minutes).

Thereafter, a roundtable¹⁶ discussion would take place (up to 5 minutes per intervention). Environmental policy and international competitiveness would set the framework for

¹³ The report includes information related to mountains in the UNECE region.

¹⁴ Following two SEE Joint Ministerial Consultations several priorities were identified for the SEE subregion and three “Belgrade initiatives” were proposed for discussion at the Conference (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/10, paragraph 28).

¹⁵ Provided that the countries concerned would manage to negotiate a legally binding instrument in due time for the Conference.

¹⁶ It is proposed to organize the roundtable discussion with the participation of high-level policy and decision makers, representatives from international and intergovernmental organisations, the civil society and the private sector.

discussion that would also include the issues of energy efficiency and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The Conference would be expected to take relevant decisions on the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *Environmental policy and international competitiveness in a globalizing world: challenges for low-income countries in the ECE region (ECE/...)*
- *Assessment and recommendations on Public sector participation in the energy efficiency equity fund (ECE/...)*
- *Assessment and recommendations on SCP patterns in the UNECE region (ECE/...)*

Category II documents:

- *Analytical report on progress of energy efficiency efforts (ECE/...)*
- *Background report on financing energy efficiency (ECE/...)*
- *Progress report on Facilitating Development of Coal Mine Methane (CMM) Projects in EECCA (ECE/...)*
- *Assessment report on Mapping SCP in SEE and EECCA countries (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on sustainable consumption and production (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Mainstreaming Environment into Economic Growth: a Strategy for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Integration of Environment into Agriculture and Forestry in Selected ECA countries (ECE/...)*
- *Assessment and recommendations on Environment and Security (ECE/...)*

(b) Mobilizing Finance for Environmental Priorities (Roundtable, 2 hours)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by a Chairperson (up to 5 minutes) followed by two keynote addresses, one by a minister and the other by a high-level representative from the private sector (up to 10 minutes per keynote address).

Thereafter, a roundtable discussion would take place, with a focus on mobilizing financing for environmental priorities and on the partnerships with the private sector (up to 5 minutes per intervention).

The Conference would be expected to take relevant decisions on the documents submitted for this agenda sub-item.

Category I documents:

- *Recommendations on mobilizing finance for environmental priorities: recommendations for the future¹⁷ (ECE/...)*

¹⁷ The recommendations will also cover the SEE subregion.

Category II documents:

- *Progress report on the work of the Project Preparation Committee 2003-07¹⁸ (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Trends in Environmental Finance (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Environmental Financing Trends In SEE (ECE/...)*
- *Background document on Payment of ecosystems services in integrated water resources management (ECE/...)*
- *Analytical report on Partnership and Cooperation in Transboundary River Basin Management in the Danube River Basin (ECE/...)*
- *Partnerships with the private sector (ECE/...)*
- *Partnership with the private sector on the example of the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership (ECE/...)*

DAY III. THE WAY FORWARD

Item 7. The future of the “Environment for Europe” process (10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
(Plenary session, 2.5 hours)

The session would be opened with introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference (up to 5 minutes). Under this agenda item the Conference would be expected to discuss the Ministerial Declaration including the future of the “Environment for Europe” process¹⁹.

The Ministers may wish to consider and adopt a Ministerial Declaration.

Category I document:

- *Draft ministerial declaration (ECE/...)*

Item 8. Closure of the Conference (12.30 p.m. - 1 p.m.) *(plenary session, 0.5 hours)*

The Chairperson of the Conference would summarize the results of the Conference and present them in the form of a Chairperson’s summary.

This Conference would close at 1 p.m. on 12 October 2007.

Category I document:

- *Chairperson’s summary (ECE/...)*

¹⁸ The report will also cover the SEE subregion.

¹⁹ Proposed documents that are relevant to the future of the EfE process would be taken into account in preparing the Ministerial Declaration, as appropriate.

DRAFT OUTLINE 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
9.00–10.00	Official opening of the Conference (1h) (Plenary session)	9.00–13.00	Capacity building (4h) ⇒ Progress and perspectives in implementation of EECCA Strategy ² (2h) (Panel discussion) ⇒ SEE perspectives (2h) (Plenary session)	10.00–13.00	The future of the EfE process (2.5h) (Plenary session) ⇒ Ministerial Declaration ³ (including the future of EfE process) Closure of the Conference (0.5h) (Plenary session) ⇒ Chairperson’s Summary ⁴
10.00–13.00	Assessment and implementation (3h) (Plenary session) ⇒ Belgrade report; monitoring and assessment ¹ (2h) ⇒ MEAs; EPRs (1h)				
Lunch 13.00–14.30		Lunch 13.00–15.00		Lunch 13.00–15.00	
14.30–18.30	PARALLEL PROCESSES Education for sustainable development ⁵ (2h) (Plenary session) Biodiversity ⁶ (2h) (Roundtable of NGOs and ministers)	15.00–19.00	Partnerships (4h) (Two consecutive roundtables) ⇒ Environmental policy and international competitiveness ⁷ (2h) ⇒ Mobilizing finance for environmental priorities ⁸ (2h)		

¹ Including transboundary waters assessment in the UNECE region.

² Depending on the category I documents to be submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee, other issues, such as the Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment Initiative and Central Asia Mountain Initiative could also be addressed within this agenda sub-item.

³ Subject to adoption.

⁴ For information.

⁵ A joint session of Environment and Education Ministers that adopted the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Vilnius (March 2005), and those from other interested member States.

⁶ A round table of NGOs and Ministers from interested Member States, prepared jointly by the PEBLDS and European ECO-Forum.

⁷ Under the framework of environmental policy and international competitiveness the issues of Energy and SCP would also be addressed.

⁸ Including the issue of mobilizing finances for environmental priorities and the partnerships with the private sector.