

Überschrift/Titel:	The Future of the EfE Process
Üntertitel:	Contribution to the discussion (plenary)
Redner/in:	HoD ¹
Anlass:	Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" Agenda item 7
Ort:	Belgrade, 10 - 12 October 2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As our State Secretary has already said in his statement on the EEA's report on the state of the environment, one aim of this conference is to hold up a mirror to reveal the environmental progress being made in a pan-European context. The reflection that we have seen has certainly not been particularly pleasing for any of us. So what lessons can be learned from this for the future of the process?

1. We must monitor progress even more closely. That does not mean holding ministerial conferences more frequently, but it does mean making more effective use of the ECE/CEP for reviews between the conferences.
2. We must recognise that there is not a uniform solution for all the subregions. We must think more locally.
3. The objectives must be defined more clearly. There are noticeable regional differences in the objectives, especially as regards priorities. We must take account of this to a greater extent.
4. The participating states' own efforts are vital and must be given vigorous encouragement within the framework of partnerships. This includes recognising environmental protection as an important cross-cutting task and equipping the environment ministries with adequate personnel and material resources.
It is certainly not the task of this process to tell sovereign states which priorities must be set. This too is primarily a task for the countries themselves. However, it will undoubtedly become more and more difficult to elicit support if the objectives, and the methods by which these objectives are to be achieved, are not clearly identifiable. Countries that wish to make the most of this process have the responsibility to develop appropriate programmatic goals.
5. Better integration of the regional environmental centres is important. This conference has identified ways of achieving this. The future will show if the cooperation between the environmental centres and the administrations works on the ground. This is an essential prerequisite for the work of the environ-

¹ The present document is a scanned copy of a statement received on 12 October 2007 during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007). The document has not been formally processed by the UNECE.

mental centres. In addition, the environmental centres must assert themselves more strongly in the market. It will still be possible to provide external funding for a transitional period, but not on a permanent basis.

To sum up, focussing the process on specific subregions and on specific priorities defined and prepared in advance of the conferences can help to make the process more effective. We will all benefit from this restructuring of the process.