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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Seventh session

Geneva, 27–29 November 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 November 2006*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the sixth session
3. Officers of the Working Group

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, also available from the website of the UNECE/ELHM Division (www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, *no later than two weeks prior to the meeting*, by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (to oksana.rott@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (extension 72447). This document is being submitted on the above date because of processing delays.

4. Support to the fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment:
 - (a) Draft Belgrade assessment report
 - (b) Coordination with related assessments and data collection
 - (c) Progress made under specific activities supporting the preparation of the Belgrade report
5. Other contributions on environmental monitoring and assessment to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”:
 - (a) Guidelines for the application of environmental indicators and for indicator-based environmental reporting
 - (b) Guidelines for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises
6. Modernization of air-quality monitoring networks in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
7. Preparation of the report on the Working Group’s activities in 2005–2007
8. Other business

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Working Group is open to all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Other member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). In addition to the regular circulation, meeting documentation will be posted on the Working Group’s website: www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/.

Monday, 27 November

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10 a.m. – 10.10 a.m.)

The Working Group is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the sixth session (10.10 a.m. – 10.20 a.m.)

The Working Group is invited to adopt the report as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2006/2.

Item 3: Officers of the Working Group (10.20 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

According to a decision, taken at its sixth session, the Working Group is expected to decide on the composition of its Bureau, the functions of elected officers, their tenure in office and the election procedure, and to elect the Bureau accordingly. The secretariat will circulate a proposal for decision-making prepared at the request of the Working Group (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006, para. 8).

Monday, 27 November – Tuesday, 28 November**Item 4: Support to the fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment**

4(a) Draft Belgrade assessment report (11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on Monday; 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Tuesday)

The Working Group will review draft chapters in the following sequence:

- (i) Introduction – Setting the scene
- (ii) Environment and health and the quality of life
- (iii) Climate change
- (iv) Biodiversity
- (v) Marine and coastal environment
- (vi) Sustainable consumption and production and waste
- (vii) Sector integration

The Working Group is expected to provide the European Environment Agency (EEA) with comments and guidance for the completion of the report and its transmission to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007) through the Working Group of Senior Officials overseeing the conference preparations.

4(b) Coordination with related assessments and data collection (4 p.m. – 4.45 p.m. on Tuesday)

Representatives of EEA and other international organizations will report on the interactions between the preparation of the Belgrade report and other ongoing environmental assessment and data collection activities such as the 2006 Questionnaire on Environment Statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Balkan environment report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the progress report on the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) by the Task Force on the Environmental Action Programme, and the assessment of transboundary waters by the Meeting of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

The Working Group will provide comments and discuss synergies between various assessment and data collection activities.

4(c) Progress made under specific activities supporting the preparation of the Belgrade report (4.45 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday)

Representatives of EEA and its European Topic Centre on Inland Waters, as well as the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre, will report on specific capacity-building activities in EECCA associated with the report's preparation and supported by the second Tacis environmental monitoring project, which focuses on inland waters and on air and climate change. Representatives of EEA will also report on the results of a consultation meeting with non-governmental organizations to be held at the Regional Environmental Centre at Szentendre (Hungary) on 16–17 November 2006.

The Working Group may wish to provide guidance for the implementation of the above-mentioned capacity-building activities and for further action to promote the Belgrade report.

Wednesday, 29 November

Item 5: Other contributions on environmental monitoring and assessment to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”:

5(a) Guidelines for the application of environmental indicators and for indicator-based environmental reporting (9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

Representatives of UNEP are expected to report on the results of three training workshops organized in EECCA to promote the methodology of the draft Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and to help EEA to produce an indicator compendium for the Belgrade report.

The Working Group will consider revised Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and draft Guidelines for Indicator-based Environmental Reporting prepared by the workshop to be held in Donetsk (Ukraine) on 31 October – 2 November 2006 pursuant to a decision taken by the Working Group at its sixth session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/2, para. 14). It is expected to agree on the final texts of both sets of Guidelines for submission to the Committee on Environmental Policy for adoption and transmission to, and possible endorsement by, the Belgrade conference.

5(b) Guidelines for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises (2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)

The Working Group will consider draft Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises prepared by the Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises held in Debe (Poland) on 4–6 September 2006 pursuant to a decision taken by the Working Group at its sixth session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/2, para. 35). It is expected to agree on the final text of Guidelines for submission to the Committee on Environmental Policy for adoption and transmission to, and possible endorsement by, the Belgrade Ministerial Conference.

Item 6: Modernization of air-quality monitoring networks in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

The delegation of Belarus will confirm its preparedness to organize a workshop in April 2007, in response to the invitation by the Working Group ((ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/2, para. 28), to prepare recommendations to help EECCA countries revise their air-monitoring strategies and programmes. It will also report on the resources that the host country has earmarked for the event.

The Working Group will provide guidance on the preparation of substantive documentation for the event, participants and country inputs to the workshop.

Item 7: Preparation of the report on the Working Group's activities in 2005–2007 (5 p.m. – 5.20 p.m.)

The Working Group will discuss modalities for the preparation of the report to the Committee on Environmental Policy on the implementation of its work programme for 2005–2007 and possible proposals for the extension and revision of its mandate, along with related resource needs. The draft report will have to be presented to the Working Group for consideration at its eighth session.

Item 8: Other business (5.20 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.