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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Eighth session
Geneva, 12–13 June 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 June 2007**

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the seventh session
3. Fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment and associated activities
 - (a) Communication and dissemination of the Belgrade assessment report
 - (b) Overview of progress and outcomes of specific activities supporting the preparation of the Belgrade report under TACIS support

* This document is being submitted on the above date because of delays in getting comments from the partners.

** According to the accreditation procedures for meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form 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).

- (c) Related products for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference
 - (d) Lessons learned for the future
4. Linking air-quality monitoring with decision-making
 5. Environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises
 6. Reporting to the Committee on Environmental Policy
 7. Other business

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. 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/.

Tuesday, 12 June

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

2. The Working Group is invited to adopt its agenda.

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

3. The Working Group is invited to adopt the report as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2006/12.

Item 3: Fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment and associated activities

(a) Communication and dissemination of the Belgrade assessment report (10.20 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

4. The European Environment Agency (EEA) will make a presentation on the Belgrade report preparation process, problems encountered and important observations for future pan-European assessments.

5. The Working Group will consider effective ways and means to widely communicate and disseminate the Belgrade report. It may furthermore discuss how to make better use of it at different levels through, for instance, national launches of the report.

(b) Overview of progress and outcomes of specific activities supporting the preparation of the Belgrade report under TACIS support (3 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

6. Representatives of the European Topic Centre on Inland Waters of EEA will present (as conference room papers) needs assessment reports resulting from the EEA/TACIS project for investment by bilateral and multilateral donors in water monitoring. A representative of EEA will report on the outcome of the project component on air and climate change.
7. The Working Group may wish to comment on the findings of these activities.
8. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the decisions that the Committee on Environmental Policy is expected to take, at its meeting of 29 May 2007, regarding the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in EECCA and associated documents prepared by the Working Group.
9. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will present the data compendium (as a conference room paper) revised in the light of online consultation with experts from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to be held during March–April 2007. The compendium will cover selected indicators from the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in EECCA.
10. The Working Group may provide comments on the revised data compendium and exchange views on how the production of the compendium contributes to further improvement of the Guidelines.

(c) Related products for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference (5 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

11. Representatives of international organizations will present the assessment reports that they plan to submit to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007) such as the assessment 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 a report on environmental policy in South-Eastern Europe by the United Nations Development Programme. The delegations will be provided, prior to the meeting, with references to websites where copies of these documents (in English and Russian) will be posted.
12. The Working Group may wish to exchange views on these reports.

Wednesday, 13 June

Item 3: Fourth pan-European assessment report on the state of the environment and associated activities (*continued*)

(d) Lessons learned for the future (9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)

13. The Working Group is expected to discuss areas where improvements in data collection and assessments should be made to support subsequent pan-European reports on the environment. It may also consider ways and means of linking closer environmental monitoring

and reporting with environmental policymaking. The secretariat paper “Making Monitoring and Assessment an Effective Tool in Environmental Policy” (ECE/CEP/2007/7), prepared for the Committee on Environmental Policy at the request of the Committee’s Bureau, may stimulate the debate.

Item 4: Linking air-quality monitoring with decision-making (11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

14. The delegation of Belarus will present the results of the Workshop on the Interaction between Air-quality Monitoring and Air-protection Strategies in EECCA Countries (Minsk, 22–24 May 2007).

15. The Working Group will discuss and finalize the strategic document that the Workshop is expected to prepare (to be circulated as a conference room paper in English and Russian). The document is intended to help EECCA countries revising their air-monitoring programmes by making monitoring a practical tool for policy target setting, developing pollution abatement strategies and measuring progress in achieving policy targets and effectiveness of abatement measures.

Item 5: Environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises (2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.)

16. The Working Group will discuss the results of a feasibility study, prepared at the initiative of the Enterprise Consultative Board at the Working Group, on the development of a manual on environmental monitoring programmes in the chemical industry for enterprise management and public authorities in EECCA. Copies of the study in English and Russian will be circulated as conference room papers.

17. The Working Group will consider the opportunity to launch the preparation of the manual as a follow-up to the Guidelines on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises prepared by the Working Group at its previous session.

Item 6: Reporting to the Committee on Environmental Policy (3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.)

18. The Working Group will prepare a report to the Committee on Environmental Policy on the implementation of its mandate. In accordance with the decision taken by the Working Group at its seventh session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/12, para. 49), the Bureau will circulate a draft report (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2007/3 and Add.1) prepared on the basis of country inputs to the questionnaire and the factual information on the Working Group’s activities compiled by the secretariat.

Item 7: Other business (4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

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