



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/124
14 January 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**REPORT ON THE ELEVENTH SESSION
13-15 October 2004**

Executive summary

- The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare the next regional implementation forum on sustainable development tentatively scheduled for December 2005 or January 2006, pending a decision by the Commission.
- The Committee reviewed the environmental performance of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Tajikistan, and adopted the recommendations for these countries. It took note of the interim reports on the implementation of the environmental performance reviews in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Finally, it extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance for two years, adopted its [terms of reference](#) and elected its members.
- The Committee decided to convene a High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries on 18 March 2005 for the final consideration of the strategy on education for sustainable development (ESD).
- The Committee supported the work of the UNECE Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and requested it to focus on the preparation of the Belgrade assessment report within the “Environment for Europe” process.
- It welcomed the work under way to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the “Environment for Europe” process and provided guidance for further work.
- The Committee acknowledged the progress achieved under the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and welcomed the third informal joint consultation to be held between the representatives of its Bureau and those of the governing bodies of the MEAs.
- The Committee appreciated the work carried out in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), including the organization of the “Kiev +1” High-level Meeting in Tbilisi (October 2004) to discuss the implementation of the EECCA Strategy, as well as the proposal for a partnership agreement on environment, water and security.
- The Committee supported the cross-sectoral activities on sustainable energy, environment and health, and transport, environment and health.
- The Committee established the Working Group of Senior Officials for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” and adopted its mandate.

CONTENTS

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	1 - 5
I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	6
II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE.....	7 - 9
III. REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.	10 - 13
IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK (2005-2006)	14 - 63
A. Environmental performance reviews.....	14 - 33
B. Education for sustainable development.....	34 - 38
C. Environmental monitoring	39 - 41
D. Communication strategy.....	42 - 44
E. UNECE multilateral environmental agreements	45 - 47
F. Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)	48 - 51
G. Environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia.....	52 - 54
H. Activities of the Regional Adviser and his contribution to the Committee's programme of work	55 - 56
I. Other cross-sectoral activities	57 - 63
V. THE COMMITTEE'S INPUT TO THE UNECE PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE NEXT BIENNIAL (2006-2007).....	64
VI. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNECE TRUST FUNDS.....	65
VII. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP (WORKING GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS) FOR THE NEXT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” IN 2007.....	66 - 70
VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION.....	71
IX. CLOSING OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION.....	72 - 73

Annexes

- I. Contributing to the Commission on Sustainable Development's thirteenth and fourteenth sessions.
- II. Summary of the interim reporting on the implementation of environmental performance reviews of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
- III. Directions for the United Nations programme budget 2006-2007, note from the secretariat prepared in consultation with the Committee's Bureau.
- IV. Criteria for financial support.
- V. Mandate for the Working Group of Senior Officials for the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment For Europe".

Introduction

1. The eleventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy took place in Geneva from 13 to 15 October 2004. Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia) chaired the session.

2. The session was attended by delegates from 38 UNECE member countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.

3. The session was attended by representatives of the European Commission (EC).

4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), the Council of Europe, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also took part.

5. The following non-governmental organization and regional environmental centre were also represented: European ECOFORUM and Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the agenda for its eleventh session as contained in document ECE/CEP/123 and Corr. 1.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

7. The Committee was informed of the decisions taken by the Commission that were relevant to it, and in particular those related to the UNECE comprehensive review.

8. As regards the collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Committee encouraged UNECE to continue the already existing collaboration with OSCE on the environment and make use of the synergies between the two organizations in order to avoid duplication of work.

9. The Committee focused on the invitation to UNECE to monitor the implementation of the commitments on environment, energy and sustainable development stemming from the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Maastricht (Netherlands) in February 2004, and felt that it needed further clarifications on the exact nature of the tasks and their resource implications.

II. REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

10. The UNECE secretariat informed the Committee of:

(a) The outcome of the Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, 15-16 January 2004) and the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, April 2004);

(b) The consultative meeting between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Division for Sustainable Development and the regional commissions (New York, June 2004) and more specifically the future of the Commission on Sustainable Development including the preparation of its thirteenth session;

(c) The paper on challenges and policy options for water and sanitation in the UNECE region as possible input from the Bureau of the Water Convention through UNECE to the Preparatory Meeting for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (28 February - 4 March 2005).

11. At the request of the Committee, this information was also provided in writing (see annex I below).

12. The Committee acknowledged that the problems of the countries in transition were not fully reflected at the global level. The Committee felt that the UNECE contribution to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular on water and sanitation, should highlight the specific problems that these countries were facing and emphasize on the policy options, including the action-oriented local and national measures as well as regional cooperation that were needed to speed up the efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments stemming from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Committee also recommended that the final UNECE contribution should reflect the outcome of the "Kiev + 1" meeting in Tbilisi in October 2004.

13. Provided that the Economic Commission for Europe decides in favour of continuing the regional implementation meetings in the future, the Committee requested the secretariat to start preparing as soon as possible for the next meeting, preliminarily scheduled for December 2005 or January 2006. It also requested the secretariat to give consideration to designing a more interactive event that benefits fully from the expertise and experience of all the countries involved.

IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK (2005-2006)

A. Environmental performance reviews

1. Interim reporting on the implementation of environmental performance reviews

14. The Committee, at its tenth session, had requested countries to provide interim reports on the implementation of their environmental performance reviews at its annual sessions within three years of the conclusion of their first reviews.

15. Following this request, the Governments of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine presented their voluntary interim implementation reports (see annex II below).

2. Ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance

16. The UNECE secretariat reported on the work of the ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance, which was established in 1997 and was now concluding its third mandate (CEP/2004/6). It was pointed out that, over the past six years, the ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance had contributed significantly to the success of the environmental performance reviews. Among other things, it has provided guidance in establishing and optimizing the review process; helped to raise awareness of the programme in the region; undertaken comprehensive expert reviews for each of the reviewed countries; contributed to preparations for the Kiev Conference; and strengthened cooperation with other organizations.

17. The Committee appreciated the work of the Expert Group and decided to extend its mandate for the next two years. The Committee adopted the [terms of reference for the ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance \(see CEP/2004/6, annex I\)](#) including a reference to the OECD work in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

18. For the Expert Group's fourth term, the Committee elected: Mr. Karen Jenderedjian (Armenia), Mr. Alexander Rachesvky (Belarus), Ms. Vanya Grigorova (Bulgaria), Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia), Ms. Anneliese Looss (Germany), Ms. Gabriella Buzás (Hungary), Mr. Adriaan Oudeman (Netherlands), Ms. Ann-Sofi Israelson (Sweden), Mr. Jürg Schneider (Switzerland), and Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko (Uzbekistan).

3. Environmental performance reviews of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Tajikistan

19. The secretariat introduced the draft environmental performance review (EPR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEP/2004/3) and the draft EPR of Tajikistan (CEP/2004/4). It drew the attention of the Committee to a document on major policy issues emerging from the current environmental performance reviews (CEP/2004/5).

20. During the environmental performance review missions, the EPR team met representatives of non-governmental organizations, farmers, industry and the international community, in addition to the main partners, the environment authorities.

21. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the authorities involved included the State Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska. In Tajikistan, the primary partner was the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry.

22. The secretariat expressed its thanks to UNEP, WHO/EURO and the OECD EAP Task Force for the experts that they had provided; to the World Bank for its cooperation in country assessment exercises and, to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which provided considerable logistical and substantive support locally for each EPR.

23. Finally, the secretariat expressed its appreciation to the member countries that provided financial support to the EPR programme, including through the provision of experts.

In 2003-2004, these were: Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

24. During the peer review, Bosnia and Herzegovina was represented by Mr. Reuf Hadzibegic, Assistant Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, and Mr. Ibro Cengic, Head of the Ministry's Department for Environment Protection.
25. Mr. Hadzibegic stressed the importance and usefulness of the EPR not only for the authorities but also for other stakeholders. He drew attention to the impact that the war had had on his country's development, but emphasized also the determination of Bosnia and Herzegovina to move ahead rapidly with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the EPR and towards eventual integration with the European Union. Mr. Cengic presented the complex institutional structure of the State and the entities that existed in Bosnia and Herzegovina today. He stressed the importance of coordination mechanisms such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, and noted that the country was considering strengthening the State-level responsibilities for the environment. In addition, Mr. Hadzibegic informed the Committee that, after public presentation and wide dissemination of the EPR report, a special body for the implementation of its recommendations would be established.
26. Mr. Schneider, Rapporteur of the ad hoc EPR Expert Group, reported to the Committee on the major conclusions of the expert review. He emphasized that it had been recommended to Bosnia and Herzegovina to create an environmental agency and to develop a State law on environmental protection. He drew attention to the need to develop economic instruments and an integrated environmental monitoring system; to take environmental concerns into account in privatization; to prepare a solid waste strategy, speed up the closure of illegal landfills and separate hazardous and medical waste; to develop a water policy, legal framework and river basin management in accordance with EU directives and to implement the biodiversity-related recommendations.
27. Subsequent to its peer review of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Committee adopted the environmental performance review and its recommendations, as amended by the Expert Group at its meeting on 13-15 September 2004.

Tajikistan

28. Tajikistan was represented by Mr. Abduvahid Karimov, Chair of the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry.
29. Mr. Karimov reported that his country was currently developing its national environmental policy and legislation taking into account such major international documents as the Johannesburg Plan of Action, the Kiev ministerial decisions, recommendations of the Dushanbe international water forum and the conventions to which Tajikistan was a Party. Its main policy documents were the State Environment Programme for 1998-2008, the State Programme on Ecological Education for the period until 2010 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
30. Mr. Karimov explained that the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry had been established only in January 2004, just prior to the EPR mission. Since then

considerable progress had been made in organizing it. The Agency for Forestry had also been set up.

31. The Committee was also informed about the serious impact that several years of war had had on the country, and the importance of focusing now on rebuilding environmental (and other) institutions and capacity and devoting more attention to ratifying some of the most important MEAs.

32. Mr. Schneider pointed out that the EPR report was drafted during a period of structural change among the environmental authorities, the Ministry of Nature Protection being converted into the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry. He highlighted the importance of the Poverty Reduction Strategy that Tajikistan had adopted and stressed the importance of implementing it. He also drew the Committee's attention to the need to strengthen environmental monitoring, increase environmental investments, for instance in biodiversity, protected areas, air and water, especially the management of transboundary waters, and to ratify the UNECE Water Convention. Finally, he noted Tajikistan's potential for eco-tourism and the need to develop it.

33. Subsequent to its peer review of Tajikistan, the Committee adopted the environmental performance review and its recommendations, as amended by the Expert Group at its meeting on 13-15 September 2004.

B. Education for sustainable development

34. Mr. Jon Kahn, Chair of the UNECE Task Force on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), presented the draft UNECE strategy for ESD (CEP/2004/15). The vast majority of delegations commended the work of the Task Force, lead countries and the secretariat. Reference was made to the inclusive nature of the process and to its potential for improving interdepartmental cooperation in countries. The representative of European EcoForum expressed its appreciation for the transparency of the process and its openness to the participation of stakeholders.

35. The representative of UNESCO, Ms. Malika Ladjali, stated that her organization highly appreciated the work accomplished. She informed the Committee about the upcoming United Nations Decade of ESD and stressed the important role of the UNECE strategy in providing a solid regional contribution to it. UNECE was referred to as a pioneer in driving the ESD process in the region. The process could set an example for other regions as well.

36. The Committee thanked the Task Force for having developed a draft strategy that was supported by most countries. Following discussions, it was agreed to amend the first sentence of its paragraph 8 to read: The Strategy will be adopted by the interested UNECE member States.

37. Following discussions based on the note by the secretariat (CEP/2004/16), the Committee decided to convene a High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries (or other equivalent national body responsible for education) on 17-18 March 2005 to follow up the decisions taken at the fifth "Environment for Europe" Conference in Kiev. It decided furthermore to forward the draft UNECE strategy to the High-level Meeting for final consideration. The delegation of Sweden reported that it was prepared to co-chair the Meeting together with the Russian Federation. The Meeting, in coordination with UNESCO, would

launch the United Nations Decade of ESD in the UNECE region. Invitations to the Meeting would be sent through the permanent missions of the UNECE member States to the United Nations.

38. Finally, the Committee discussed a proposal for a framework for the strategy's implementation (CEP/2004/17) and broadly supported it. It noted that ESD-related activities would be financed through voluntary contributions, unless agreed otherwise. It decided to review progress in the implementation, including its financial aspects, at its next session. It was agreed that the framework for implementation would be submitted to the High-level Meeting for further discussion and adoption.

C. Environmental monitoring

39. The Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Mr. Yuri Tsaturov, reported on the activities that it had implemented or launched since the tenth session of the Committee. He referred to the note by the secretariat (CEP/2004/14) and presented in detail the results of and the follow-up to the workshops on electronic databases for environmental reporting (Moscow, May 2004), the application of environmental indicators (Chisinau, July 2004), and the first phase of the Tacis project on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Geneva, November 2003). Mr. Tsaturov voiced the need for donor support in 2005 for the Working Group's projects to facilitate the environmental monitoring and information management objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy, in particular in the areas of environmental indicators, integrated assessments and reporting. He indicated that, owing to the insufficiency of donor funds, the Working Group's annual session had had to be postponed until June 2005.

40. A representative of the European Commission informed the Committee about the recent approval of the second phase of the Tacis project on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity in EECCA (amounting to €1 million), which would support, among other things, the Working Group's activities in 2005-2007.

41. Following discussion, the Committee:

- (a) Expressed its support for the activities of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;
- (b) Invited the Working Group to establish its work programme and in particular to focus on supporting the European Environment Agency in the preparation of the Belgrade assessment report and on further building monitoring and assessment capacities in EECCA countries including their reporting according to international environmental obligations;
- (c) Acknowledged, with appreciation, the decision by the European Commission to provide further funds for the Working Group and invited interested countries to consider the possibilities for providing financial support to the Working Group in 2004-early 2005.

D. Communication strategy

42. A consultant to the secretariat informed the Committee of the draft communication strategy for raising awareness about the results achieved and the issues promoted within the “Environment for Europe” process. To further develop it, it was suggested that a meeting with stakeholders should be held on 7 June 2005, back to back with the Bureau’s meeting. Following discussions by the Committee and its Bureau, the strategy would be submitted for adoption by the Committee at its thirteenth session in October 2006.

43. The Committee welcomed the draft as a good basis for further work. A number of delegations considered that the communication strategy should involve both media relations and advocacy. In terms of media relations, further guidance and a plan for consistent messaging to a targeted group of environmental journalists was important. For both media relations and the advocacy and awareness among the public, the delegations considered that the involvement of a network of prominent personalities would be of great benefit. It was recommended furthermore to give more attention to a multilingual or at least a bilingual approach. The information should be made available via the Internet but also in print for those who did not have online access.

44. The Committee invited the consultant to prepare a new version of the draft on the basis of the comments made and guidance given during the discussion.

E. UNECE multilateral environmental agreements

45. The Chairman informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations between the representatives of its Bureau and those of the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions, held on 7 June 2004 (CEP/2004/10). The Committee agreed to continue holding informal consultations to share experiences and to facilitate the coordination of the activities and priorities for action at national level.

46. The secretaries to the five UNECE environmental conventions provided the Committee with information on their successes and challenges. Reports on the key developments under each instrument are included in annex II to document CEP/2004/10.

47. The Committee welcomed the topics for discussion put forward by the Bureaux at their latest meeting:

- (a) Financial and human resources to implement the activities under the UNECE environmental agreements;
- (b) Means for addressing public participation in international forums relevant to the environment;
- (c) Synergies between UNECE environmental conventions at both national and international levels.

F. Environment Strategy for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

48. The Committee took note of the information provided by its Chairman and the representative of the OECD EAP Task Force on the preparations for the ministerial meeting (Kiev + 1) in Georgia on 21-22 October 2004, following the decision by Environment Ministers in Kiev.

49. The Kiev +1 Conference was expected to bring together Environment Ministers from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, donor countries, representatives of international organizations and international financial institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to discuss action programmes and partnerships set up since the Kiev Conference to implement the EECCA Environment Strategy adopted there, and to provide additional impetus for the implementation.

50. More information on the Conference is available on the EAP Task Force's web site: <http://www.oecd.org/env/eap>.

51. The Committee noted that UNECE would continue to promote the implementation of the EECCA Strategy through, in particular, its environmental performance review programme, its environmental monitoring activities and the work under its environmental conventions.

G. Environment, water and security partnership in Central Asia

52. Mr. Abduvokhid Karimov, Chairman of the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry in Tajikistan and of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) in Central Asia, made a statement on behalf of the Central Asian States. He sketched the background to the Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development, and spoke about the role of the Regional Environmental Centre of Central Asia as the secretariat and the responsibility of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development. He highlighted the importance of an international legal document such as the proposed partnership agreement on environment, water and security in supporting sustainable development in the subregion. He gave an account of a series of related consultations and workshops that had taken place in 2004. Finally, he stressed the importance of ensuring adequate support from international partners for the Initiative and proposed, towards that end, the holding of a special meeting in 2005, in connection with the 10-year anniversary of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development.

53. The UNECE Regional Adviser for the environment, Mr. Bo Libert, pointed out that one of the strengths of the Initiative lay in its capacity to bring together different sectors, in particular if firmly led by ICSD. He stated that careful consideration should be given to the scope and objectives of the proposed special meeting so as to avoid any overlap with the numerous other meetings being planned in the region.

54. The Committee took note of this information.

H. Activities of the Regional Adviser and his contribution to the Committee's programme of work

55. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser for the environment, informed the Committee about his activities related to its programme of work, to the UNECE environmental conventions and their protocols, as well as to the EECCA Strategy and the Environment, Water and Security Partnership in Central Asia (CEP/2004/11). These activities focused on EECCA and in particular on Central Asia. Efforts were made to develop project cooperation with several organizations, including OSCE. Reference was made to a number of ongoing water management and air quality management projects.

56. The Committee took note of this information.

I. Other cross-sectoral activities

1. Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

57. The secretariat informed the Committee of the outcome of the second session of THE PEP Steering Committee held on 29-30 March 2004. The Committee was also given a brief account of the Programme's main activities, related in particular to:

- (a) Development of a clearing house for disseminating information on transport, environment and health, and their integration;
- (b) Workshop organized jointly with the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation on "Implementing Sustainable Urban Travel Policies in Russia and other CIS Countries" (Moscow, 30 September - 1 October 2004);
- (c) Development of methods for assessing the health costs and effects of transport;
- (d) Provision of practical guidance on institutional arrangements and mechanisms for integrated policy- and decision-making;
- (e) Dissemination of good practice to promote safe conditions for people to walk and cycle in urban areas.

58. It was estimated that two years after its adoption THE PEP had proved to be quite successful in bringing together the representatives of the transport, health and environment sectors and the relevant international organizations and in implementing a number of concrete activities thanks to the financial support from several member States.

59. The Committee took note of the information and invited delegates to contribute to making the Programme more widely known in their countries and to encourage further support and active participation in it. Further information on THE PEP is available on <http://www.thepep.org>.

2. Energy and the environment

60. The Committee took note of the information provided by the representative of the UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division on the activities in the field of renewable energies carried out within the UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project.

61. The Project aims at increasing the market share of renewable energies (RES) in the current energy mix by promoting RES-market formation and developing RES- investment projects in particular in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), with the ultimate objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in UNECE countries in transition. Further information on the activity can be accessed from its web site: <http://www.ee-21.net/>.

3. Environment and Health

62. Ms. Helena Cizkova, Vice-Chair of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), reported on the Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment held in Budapest (23-25 June 2004), including notably the Budapest Declaration and the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan. She also outlined the future of the "Environment and Health" process, with a mid-term review meeting scheduled for 2007 and the fifth Ministerial Conference for 2009.

63. The Committee welcomed the outcome of the Conference. It elected five representatives of the environment sector to EEHC, mandated to facilitate the "Environment and Health" process: Mr. Thaler (Austria), Ms. Kauppi (Finland), Mr. Lomtadze (Georgia), Mr. Clinì (Italy) and Mr. Spasojevic (Serbia and Montenegro).

V. THE COMMITTEE'S INPUT TO THE UNECE PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE NEXT BIENNIAL (2006-2007)

64. To provide input to the United Nations programme budget proposal for the 2006-2007 biennium, the Committee discussed possible changes in work directions; new priorities; activities to be cancelled or discontinued; new activities to be introduced; documentation to be prepared and the potential for its streamlining, publications, number and length of meetings, etc. It was agreed to submit a summary of the discussion to the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work to facilitate its review of the draft UNECE programme budget for 2006-2007 (annex III below).

VI. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNECE TRUST FUNDS

65. The Committee took note of the information provided on the current status of the trust funds and adopted the updated criteria for financial support (annex IV below).

VII. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP (WORKING GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS) FOR THE NEXT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” IN 2007

66. The secretariat introduced document CEP/2004/13 on the establishment of the Preparatory Group for the sixth “Environment for Europe” Conference.

67. The Working Group of Senior Officials, at its special session in 2003, had decided that the sixth Ministerial Conference would take place in Belgrade in the autumn of 2007.

68. It had also decided that the first meeting of the open-ended “Environment for Europe” Preparatory Group would be convened in the autumn of 2005, back to back with the Committee’s twelfth session.

69. The Committee established the Working Group of Senior Officials for the sixth Ministerial Conference and adopted its mandate, as amended (annex VI below).

70. In addition, the delegation of Serbia and Montenegro provided preliminary information on the organization of the Conference.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION

71. On the basis of consultations, the Committee elected the following members to its Bureau: Chairman: Mr. Z. Lomtadze (Georgia); Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. N. Panariti (Albania), Mr. B.A. Szelinski (Germany), Mr. S. Tveretinov (Russian Federation), Mr. C. Wieckowski (Poland), Mr. J. Kahn (Sweden), Mr. J. Schneider (Switzerland) and Mr. J. Matuszak (United States of America).

IX. CLOSING OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION

72. The decisions of the Committee at its eleventh session were summarized by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman and distributed to the delegations at the end of the meeting. The Committee entrusted the secretariat with finalizing the report in consultation with the Bureau.

73. The twelfth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy will be held on 10-12 October 2005.

Annex I**CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'S THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH SESSIONS****Note by the secretariat (13 October 2004)**

1. Contribution by the UNECE secretariat to the Secretary-General's report for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on water and sanitation and human settlements prepared on the basis of the Regional Implementation Forum held in January 2004 and delivered in September 2004.
2. Drafting of the UNECE contribution to the preparatory meeting for the thirteenth session to be held in February-March 2005. The contribution on human settlements was discussed and amended by the Committee on Human Settlements in mid-September 2004. The draft on water and sanitation was circulated to the Bureau of the UNECE Water Convention's governing body for comment and possible amendment. Both drafts will be submitted to the Economic Commission for Europe at its session in February 2005.
3. The Commission is expected to make a consolidated contribution to the above-mentioned preparatory meeting. Its Chair is expected to present this contribution at a UNECE regional segment of the preparatory meeting.
4. It is envisaged that the Chair will prepare a summary of the preparatory meeting, which together with the Secretary-General's report will form the basis for the negotiations at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2005.
5. At the moment there is no decision on further UNECE regional implementation meetings. If an implementation meeting is held to prepare input for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (probably to take place in April 2006), it would have to be convened no later than December 2005 - January 2006. That means that the Economic Commission for Europe has to take a decision very soon after the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The deadline for the submission of official documents for a meeting in December is at the end of September and for January one month later.
6. The themes for the Commission on Sustainable Development's next cycle will be air pollution, climate change and energy. Preliminary discussions between the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements and the Energy Divisions indicate that the Energy Division would prepare the substantive documentation on energy while the secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution would prepare that on air pollution. The question of who would prepare the documentation on climate change remains open. The Environment Division would probably make the practical arrangements, as it did for the first Regional Implementation Meeting.
7. No resources for staff, consultant or travel support are allocated to the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division for this purpose. The first Implementation Meeting was conducted with support for consultants from the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development and limited travel support raised by the Economic Commission for Europe. For the next cycle no support from the former is envisaged. The limited resources are a serious bottleneck.

Annex II

INTERIM REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

1. The representative from **Armenia** noted that the environmental performance review (EPR) carried out by UNECE in 2000 had provided a broad analysis of its environmental activities and contributed to cooperation among various sectors of the economy. The review had given an important impetus to the gradual transformation of institutions and organizations, the improvement of environmental legislation and its harmonization with European legislation, strengthening environmental management and increasing public participation in the environmental decision-making and public access to information. These processes were ongoing.
2. Armenia had adopted a number of new environmental laws, revised the implementation of its 1998 National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and revised the NEAP itself in 2004. The country had carried out a number of activities to manage pollution and natural resources, particularly related to water supply, air protection and biodiversity. Armenia had introduced a system of environmental charges for products that did not comply with environmental standards. Armenia had become a Party to several international environmental conventions and was in the process of ratifying several more.
3. Not all the recommendations of the EPR had been implemented to the same degree. Some were for the longer term or required financial resources not currently available in Armenia, and others were seen as less urgent due to a certain shift in the country's economic and environmental priorities in recent years. The fact that the EPR was available only in English was also an impediment to its wider use.
4. Nevertheless, Armenia viewed the EPR as having been extremely useful in many respects, and it noted that a second environmental performance review, with an updated analysis and set of recommendations, would be of considerable value.
5. The representative from the **Republic of Moldova** noted that the recommendations of the environmental performance review conducted by UNECE in 1998 had been used to develop environmental policy, to better integrate it into other sector policies, and to improve its legal and normative framework. The EPR had been translated into the national language.
6. In accordance with the recommendations of the review, the Republic of Moldova had replaced the Department of Environment Protection with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, with extended rights and responsibilities, and it had created a National Council on Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction to coordinate strategic planning in socio-economic policy.
7. The Republic of Moldova had developed a new environmental legislative base, with more than 20 new laws and 40 sub-laws and regulations. A number of national concepts, strategies and action plans reflecting the recommendations of the EPR had also been developed, for example in environmental policy, water resources, biodiversity conservation, forestry,

environmental health, environmental safety and energy. The country had also improved its management of national and local environmental funds. The Republic of Moldova has ratified 18 international environmental conventions and signed a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

8. The Republic of Moldova had implemented most of the recommendations of the first review and had achieved significant progress in environmental policy. The representative noted that a second EPR would be valuable for the country in order to analyse the changes since the first review, assess the current state of the environment and environmental activities, and develop a new set of recommendations for further improving environmental policy.

9. The representative of **Ukraine** noted that the environmental performance review done by UNECE in 1999 had had a positive impact on the development of intersectoral cooperation and the consideration of environmental priorities in the key sectors of the Ukrainian economy. The EPR had been published in 2000 and translated into the national language in 2001. Ukraine had updated its environmental legislation, including over 200 laws and by-laws, with the use of internationally accepted norms and standards, and it had ratified 27 key environmental conventions and signed 70 multilateral and bilateral agreements.

10. The country had developed a number of national concepts, strategies and action plans, significantly improved the financing of environmental activities, and promoted the use of economic instruments. Among the important actions taken during this period were those to improve environmental monitoring, river basin management, coastal zone management, biodiversity, energy, environmental health, and land conservation.

11. However, effective work on improving environmental policy was hindered by frequent reorganizations of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and by a continuing lack of investment. Ukraine would like to continue its cooperation with the UNECE environmental performance review programme with a second review.

12. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine for their interim reports on the implementation of environmental performance reviews, and it welcomed their interest in continuing with a second EPR. The Committee noted the importance of translating the EPR into national languages and welcomed the initiative of the secretariat during recent years to provide financing, as available, for this purpose.

13. During the discussion that followed, all three countries indicated that the EPRs had had a significant influence on their policies, strategies and laws and a many of their actions to improve the management of the environment and natural resources. Particular emphasis was placed on the positive contribution of the EPRs to strengthening cooperation between the environment and other sectors of the economy.

14. The Committee emphasized the usefulness of the EPR programme for the countries reviewed and noted that it considered this programme to be one of its priorities.

Annex III

DIRECTIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME BUDGET, 2006-2007

Input for the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work to facilitate its review of the draft UNECE programme budget for 2006-2007

1. To provide input to the United Nations programme budget proposal for the 2006-2007 biennium, the Committee discussed: possible changes in work directions; new priorities; activities to be cancelled or discontinued; new activities to be introduced; documentation to be prepared (and the potential for its streamlining), publications, number and length of meetings, etc. This annex summarizes the discussion and will be transmitted to the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work to facilitate its review of the draft UNECE programme budget for 2006-2007.

Changes in the work directions

2. At its tenth session (20-22 October 2003), the Committee adopted a series of strategic goals to help structure and adapt its programme of work for the next five to ten years (CEP/2003/25). These strategic directions or goals are: contributing to the “Environment for Europe” process; improving environmental governance; improving the effectiveness of international legal instruments; contributing to the regional implementation of the environmental pillar of sustainable development; and integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies.

3. The activities in the Committee’s draft work programme for 2005-2006, which it discussed and adopted at its 11th session, are based on these goals. The overall work directions of the Committee are expected to remain valid also for the 2006-2007 biennium.

New priorities

4. The strategic goals recently agreed upon reflect the priorities for the Committee on Environmental Policy in the region, taking into account the decisions made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa), as well as at the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev in May 2003. No major changes in these priorities are to be expected for the 2006-2007 biennium. In concrete terms the Committee will continue to:

(a) Monitor the implementation of the Kiev Declaration and collaborate with partner organizations in the preparations for the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 2007);

(b) Develop and start the implementation of a communication strategy, for raising awareness about the results achieved and the issues promoted within the “Environment for Europe” process;

- (c) Carry out the second round of environmental performance reviews, focusing on implementation and on the reviewed countries' priorities;
- (d) Work on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity, particularly in the 12 EECCA countries, through the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and provide the expected contribution to the fourth assessment report of the state of the environment for the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference;
- (e) Promote synergies and further cooperation between the UNECE environmental conventions in order to take stock of demand-driven interlinkages and to create and use corresponding synergies;
- (f) Promote and monitor the effective implementation of the regional strategy for education for sustainable development in coordination with UNESCO, involving capacity-building activities and the development of indicators;
- (g) Assist Environment Ministers in assessing progress in the implementation of the region's environmental commitments stemming from the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Implementation.

Activities to be cancelled or discontinued and new activities to be introduced

5. The Committee did not recommend the introduction of any new programme elements or the discontinuation of any existing ones. However, the Committee will further facilitate the linking of the environment with the other dimensions of sustainable development at the national and subregional levels, taking into account the possibilities for integrating all dimensions into existing programmes activities. It will also further aim at enhancing the cohesion among its subregions by contributing to the development, coordination and evaluation of subregional partnerships and initiatives, for instance through policy guidance or technical assistance.

6. Cooperation with key partners inside and outside the region will be enhanced to facilitate the implementation of relevant cross-cutting and cross-sectoral instruments and policies, in particular the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Kiev Ministerial Conference.

7. The improved cooperation that has occurred during recent years between UNECE and the other regional commissions, in particular on the regional implementation of sustainable development policies, should be further strengthened. UNECE can, as requested by the other commissions, continue to provide information on its programmes, e.g. under the conventions and the EPR work. This sharing of experience should focus on the outcome of UNECE work that is relevant to one or more regions and to global forums.

Streamlining in terms of documentation, publications, number and length of meetings

8. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to continue to post all related documents on the web.

Annex IV**CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT****COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Approved by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its eleventh session

Country	GDP per capita (\$)	Eligibility note: threshold set for financial support for 2003-2004 = US\$ 3000; countries with GDP per capita below \$2500 are eligible for financial support (travel expenses and DSA 1/); countries with GDP per capita between \$2500 and \$3000 are eligible for financial support (DSA only)
Russian Federation	2991	Eligible for DSA only
Romania	2620	
Bulgaria	2539	
Turkmenistan	2457	Eligible for financial support (travel and DSA)
Serbia and Montenegro	2345	
The FYR of Macedonia	2327	
Kazakhstan	1994	
Belarus	1772	
Albania	1739	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1591	
Ukraine	1041	
Georgia	877	
Armenia	875	
Azerbaijan	867	
Republic of Moldova	542	
Kyrgyzstan	382	
Uzbekistan	342	
Tajikistan	236	
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT		18
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR DSA ONLY		3
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES + DSA		15
1/ DSA - daily subsistence allowance		

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), 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.

¹ As identified in paragraph 15 of the Kiev Declaration.

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.

**Home**

Welcome
Mandate
The Review Process
Expert Group
Countries reviewed
Interim
Implementation
Reports
Meetings

Print this page

**Environmental Performance Reviews Programme****Purpose and Structure**

At its fourth session, in May 1997, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy noted with satisfaction the progress of the Environmental Performance Review programme and decided to establish an ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance, consisting of experts from ten countries, to provide guidance to the programme. The original mandate for the Expert Group was two years. It has subsequently been extended thrice: in 1999, at the CEP's sixth session, in 2001, at the Committee's eighth session and in 2004, at the Committee's eleventh session.

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance**A. Membership**

1. The Expert Group should comprise 10 to 14 members, with due consideration to geographical balance among the countries in the region.
2. It is suggested that, when new members are chosen, due regard should be given to experts from countries that have recently been reviewed as well as to those that have undergone or soon will undergo second reviews.

B. Terms of reference

3. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy renews the mandate of the ad hoc UNECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance for a period of two years to:
 - (a) Carry out the expert review process prior to the peer review to be undertaken by the Committee on Environmental Policy;
 - (b) Provide guidance to the UNECE secretariat and the Committee on all substantive and organizational matters arising in the implementation of the UNECE programme of environmental performance reviews (EPRs); and
 - (c) Assist the UNECE secretariat in coordinating the UNECE EPR programme with processes under way in other international institutions that have a bearing on it, inter alia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) environmental performance review programme and its work in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
4. The guidance of the Expert Group to UNECE and the Committee will include:
 - (a) Identification of opportunities and requirements for improving the conduct of the EPRs;
 - (b) Assessment of environmental trends relevant to the EPR process in countries in transition, including the organization of regional and subregional joint meetings, seminars and workshops, where these are demand-driven;
 - (c) Review and improvement of the data and information used for the EPRs;
 - (d) Proposals on how to improve the adoption of the recommendations contained in the EPR country reports and their implementation.
5. The EPR Expert Group is elected by the Committee on Environmental Policy upon the recommendation of the Bureau. The secretariat will invite international institutions pursuing related work to participate in the work of the EPR Expert Group.
6. The EPR Expert Group determines its rules of procedure in accordance with the relevant provisions of its terms of reference and elects its chair.
7. The EPR Expert Group will report annually on its activities to the Committee on Environmental Policy, and may raise any issue with the Committee that it deems necessary for the implementation of its mandate.

Current Membership

Mr. Karen Jenderedjian, Chair (Armenia); Mr. Alexander Rachevsky (Belarus); Ms. Vanya Grigorova (Bulgaria); Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia); Ms. Anneliese Looss (Germany); Ms. Gabriela Buzas (Hungary); Mr. Adriaan Oudeman (Netherlands); Ms. Ann-Sofi Israelson (Sweden); Mr. Jurg Schneider (Switzerland) and Ms. Nadejda Dotsenko (Uzbekistan).

The United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the World Health European Centre for Environment and Health, and OECD are also invited to participate in the meetings of the Expert Group.

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