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Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (THE) 22-23 January 2009, Amsterdam

The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was launched at the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health in 2002. It was set up to address key challenges to achieve more sustainable transport patterns and a closer integration of environmental and health concerns into transport policy. THE PEP was established as a multisectoral partnership among member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) to draw on the expertise and experience of international organizations, civil society, local authorities, the private sector and the academic and research communities.

making **THE** link

Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity

The Government of the Netherlands, in cooperation with UNECE and WHO/Europe is hosting the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (3HLM), which will take place in Amsterdam on 22-23 January

2009 at the Felix Meritis European Centre for Arts, Culture and Science.

The aim of the Meeting is to draw the attention of Governments and other stakeholders to specific challenges in sustainable transport and to re-launch THE PEP as a unique policy framework. A dedicated website — <http://www.makingthelink.nl/> — is available with background and practical information on this important and innovative conference.

Scope and purpose of the Third High-level Meeting

The Third High-level Meeting is being organized under the auspices of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, to encourage transport policymakers and planners to take both health and environmental concerns into consideration in order to make cities and communities more healthy, livable, and sustainable.

The theme of the High-level Meeting will be: “**Making THE (transport, health and environment) link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity.**”

High-level officials and representatives of Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders will gather in Amsterdam to foster collaboration between the three sectors for an integrated approach which is one of the aims of THE PEP.

The Meeting will seek to draw the attention of Governments to specific challenges on:

- how to manage sustainable mobility, promote clean and efficient public transport systems and encourage walking and cycling
- how to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases and other air pollutants as well as noise
- how to promote a healthier and safer environment, particularly in urban centres.

Recognizing that transport is an important part of the economies in the region as well as of modern life, the Meeting is expected to adopt a Declaration which includes action points for policymakers that help address the key challenges posed by transport, health and environment issues. Government representatives are also expected to endorse a new workplan with future activities and areas of cooperation intended to reinvigorate THE PEP and its objectives and tools.



The 3HLM is expected to bring together ministers of transport, health and environment and their representatives, as well as other policymakers from the member States of the UNECE and WHO Europe region, and is intended to carve out a common vision for the future of sustainable and healthy transport in the region, in particular in urban areas. It will include expert and ministerial keynote speeches, as well as panels and debates with both high-level stakeholders and other interested participants.



For more information visit <http://www.makingthelink.nl/> or contact Brinda Wachs (brinda.wachs@unece.org).

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The Third High-level Meeting will aim to:

- review and take stock of developments concerning sustainable transport and policy integration in the region since the UNECE Transport and Environment Ministerial Conference in Vienna in 1997, and strengthen member States' commitment to greater integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level;
- reinforce the role of THE PEP as the platform for promoting greater policy integration and sustainable transport development throughout the region, in particular in the field of urban transport, as well as to reinvigorate the high-level commitment by Governments to actively implement THE PEP and to secure necessary resources and support;
- highlight and raise awareness for the main choices and challenges that need to be addressed on a priority basis, in particular in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe; and



Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe; and

- make commitments to action and agree on a vision for the future of transport, health and environment for the Pan-European region and determine priorities for future work by adjusting or complementing the THE PEP's priorities established in 2002, as needed.

The outcomes of the 3HLM will contain proposals for concrete action at the international and national or federal and sub-national level. It will seek to bring a renewed impetus to THE PEP, as a unique international policy platform, encouraging policymakers to work together to enhance the efficiency of our transport systems, while managing sustainable mobility, reducing emissions and promoting health and safety. ✨

Substantive items on the Provisional Agenda

Item 3: Transport, health and environment challenges for the pan-European region

A brief film prepared by the delegation of the Netherlands will highlight challenges in sustainable transport in the region. High-level speakers will address the Meeting on trends and developments in the three sectors. A background report, *Transport, Health and Environment: Trends and Developments in the UNECE-WHO Pan-European Region (1997-2007)*, will serve as a basis for discussion. Delegations are invited to provide information on challenges in their country in achieving sustainable transport, underlining the impacts on environment and health.

A panel discussion involving chairpersons who serviced THE PEP Steering Committee since its inception will consider achievements and carve out a future vision for THE PEP. A brochure on THE PEP achievements and good practice in sustainable transport among Member States will serve as a basis for discussion.

A high-level panel discussion will follow on *How sustainable is transport in the pan-European region today?* with representatives of government, civil society and the private sector. The conclusions will form a basis for discussion on the outcome document.

Item 4: Linking transport, health and environment knowledge

A keynote speech will evoke experiences gained in the seven years since the creation of THE PEP, including good practices implemented at regional, national and local levels. A brochure on integrated approaches to policymaking will serve as a basis for discussion. Delegations are invited to share experiences of good practice and case studies in integrating the three sectors to attain a more sustainable transport system.

A debate on key issues in the draft outcome document, *Making THE (Transport, Health and Environment) Link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity*, prepared by the extended bureau of the Steering Committee in consultation with member States, will include strategies, policies and measures to achieve the proposed three pan-European goals and concrete actions for policymakers in achieving these goals. Delegations are expected to approve the text for adoption by the end of the Meeting.

Item 5: Transport, Health and Environment Policy Choices

Keynote speeches will address the question *How do we make the right policy choices?* Delegations are invited to share their experiences by highlighting policy options and choices in transport, health and environment and selected tools and methods for their implementation.

Item 6: Making the Transport, Health and Environment Future

The future vision, priorities and workplan for THE PEP will be addressed. A representative of the European Commission will present the *Green Paper: Towards a New Culture for Urban Mobility*, containing information on its policy directions, followed by a debate from the floor on the topic *How can we best ensure synergy on an international, national and sub-national level to promote integration of transport, health and environment?* Delegations are invited to discuss the way forward for THE PEP, including how to ensure engaged participation and support for the programme and its future activities. ✨