1. The objective of the 9th session of the Extended Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee was to further prepare the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (3HLM) to be held on 22-23 January 2009 in Amsterdam, in particular the draft Amsterdam declaration. The Bureau also discussed ideas for a new PEP Partnership and future financing options for THE PEP.

2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation). The following Bureau members attended: Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria), Mr. François André (Belgium), Mr. Jiri Bendl (Czech Republic), Ms Zsuzsanna Bibók (Hungary), Mr. Jan Jániga (Slovakia), Mrs. Ursula Ulrich-Vögltin (Switzerland), Mr. Mihail Kochubovski (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Mrs. Sjoukje Faber (the Netherlands) and Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom). Ms Sofie Vannaele (Belgium), Ms. Zana Fakin and Ms Ružica Jurčič (Croatia), Ms. Manana Juruli (Georgia) and Mr. Mario Fruianu (the Netherlands) participated as members of the Steering Committee. In addition, Mr. Vassily Nebenzia and Mr. Arsen Vartanyan (Russian Federation) participated.

3. Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier (WHO Regional Office for Europe) and Ms. Brinda Wachs and Mr. Martin Magold (UNECE, Transport Division) participated on behalf of THE PEP secretariat. The meeting was hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome office.

A. Preparations for Third High-level Meeting (3HLM)

4. The Netherlands, as host country, and the secretariat briefed the Extended Bureau on progress made on the draft programme, engagement of keynote speakers, organization of side events and public relations. Official invitation letters were sent to ministries of transport, health and environment and other PEP-related members of civil society as well as to the European Commission. The Bureau was informed about the participation of high-level representatives. The secretariat would communicate with interested countries and organizations to confirm speakers and explain their roles in the programme. Mr. Clive Needle, Director EuroHealthNet, was confirmed as the overall meeting facilitator.

5. The secretariat informed that the three main background publications were being produced by UNECE and would be shipped to Amsterdam in time for the 3HLM. The outcome of the children’s design competition with the International School of Geneva (Switzerland) was presented. A selection of the best posters would be exhibited at the 3HLM and were used in the publications.

6. The Netherlands launched a dedicated website on the 3HLM (www.makingthelink.nl) which contained information relevant to the 3HLM. Three posters were also produced by the Netherlands as well as a logo. The final programme would be disseminated at the meeting. Press activities were foreseen.
B. Draft outcome document: the Amsterdam Declaration

7. The latest draft of the outcome document for the 3HLM was discussed (secretariat note no. 3), including comments received from Member States through December 2008. Several changes were discussed and agreed, especially on THE PEP priority goals. It was agreed that the document would be presented at the 3HLM as the “Amsterdam Declaration” for adoption. The Bureau asked the secretariat to add section headings to give a more clear structure. The final draft version including a few items in square brackets would be sent to the Steering Committee before the 3HLM.

C. THE PEP Partnership

8. The Bureau discussed the revised concept paper on ideas for THE PEP centre of excellence or resource network of experts (secretariat note no. 5) and agreed to refer to it as THE PEP Partnership. The Partnership would seek to promote policy integration and build capacity for sustainable and healthy transport by providing technical expertise and academic research, helping countries and municipalities develop and implement THE PEP activities and policy actions and promote outreach to other regions. The Bureau recognized that the Partnership would send a clear signal for a renewed impetus. Some Member States indicated availability to support its establishment following the 3HLM. The Bureau agreed to amend the draft declaration to include specific proposals for the establishment and functioning of THE PEP partnership by interested countries (and possibly other stakeholders) in cooperation with the secretariat. The partnership could focus on one specific theme each year, for example electric transport or cycling and walking.

D. Options for stable long-term financing of THE PEP

9. The Bureau discussed options for attracting sustained funding for THE PEP activities (secretariat note no. 4). The need for a broader donor base to ensure an effective continuation of THE PEP was underlined. The WHO secretariat also explained that current donations would only cover secretariat support up to the 3HLM. The contribution scheme (option 1) based on Gross Domestic Product of Member States was welcomed by participants as a fair and clear mechanism to secure the necessary stable funding. Some support was also expressed for channelling donations through THE PEP Partnership (option 3). However, funding rules of Member States often made donations which were not clearly earmarked difficult and introducing a new system could also jeopardize the current system of voluntary donations. It was agreed to amend the draft declaration to mandate the secretariat to further develop proposals for the Steering Committee at its seventh session.

E. Next meetings and other business

10. The next meeting of the Extended Bureau would be on 21 January 2009 in advance of the 3HLM. The following meeting could take place in May or June 2009, possibly back-to-back with a workshop on sustainable urban transport. The Seventh Session of the Steering Committee would take place on 22-23 October in the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for documentation to be submitted to the session would be 17 July 2009.