

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thirty-third Meeting
Geneva, 17 December 2009

EXCOM/CONCLU/33

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

**Meeting of the Executive Committee
17 December 2009**

Chairman's conclusions

22 January 2010

INFORMAL SEGMENT

Item 2 - Meeting with the Chairperson of the Conference of European Statisticians

Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Chairperson of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), joining the meeting by videolink from Helsinki, reported on the work of the Conference, including major achievements in the past twelve months, follow-up to the implementation of the ECE reform and new activities started or planned.

The EXCOM expressed appreciation of the practical work done and took note of the activities planned for 2010 as contained in Annex 1 of the report of the Chairperson of CES. It further took note of the proposal to set up two new task forces (Task Force on improving migration and migrant data using household surveys and other sources; and Task Force on classifying crimes for statistical purposes) and a steering group on national accounts, whose terms of reference were attached to the above-mentioned report and that some task forces have completed their work and therefore were discontinued. For the new groups to be set up, the secretariat was expected to later submit the necessary documents for formal approval at the next formal meeting of EXCOM.

Item 3 - Meeting with the Chairperson of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), joining the meeting by videolink from Vienna, reported on the work accomplished under the CEP in the past year. He also informed the EXCOM of the outcome of the CEP's sixteenth session, including the agreement on the two substantive themes for the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Astana in 2011, namely, sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

The EXCOM took note of the work done under the CEP, including climate change-related issues as well as the preparations underway for the Ministerial Conference. It further took note of the many interesting activities planned for 2010 and the proposal to establish a new steering group on environmental assessments, a formal proposal for which was expected to be submitted to EXCOM at a later stage.

Item 4 - Meeting with the Chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Energy, Mr. Jean Christophe Fuëg, presented the work of the Committee in the past year and new activities to be undertaken. He also reported on the outcome of the recent annual session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy which took place in November 2009 and, in that context, the energy security dialogue.

Furthermore, he requested the establishment of a new subsidiary body, the Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) and the renewal of the following subsidiary bodies:

- (i) Energy Efficiency EE21 Steering Committee;
- (ii) Expert Group on Resource Classification;
(formerly Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology);
- (iii) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas.

The EXCOM would formally approve the establishment and/or renewal of the above-mentioned bodies at its next session based on formal documents to be submitted. In the meantime, work related to the meetings of these bodies can be initiated.

The EXCOM thanked Mr. Fuëg for his report and expressed its appreciation for the work done under the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Item 6 - Meeting with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Ageing

The Chairperson of the Working Group on Ageing, Mr. Miloslav Hetteš, presented the work of the Working Group on Ageing in the past year and planned activities for the coming year.

The EXCOM took note of the good work done so far by the Working group on Ageing. It further invited the secretariat to submit the programme of work for 2010-2011 of the Working Group on Ageing for approval by the Executive Committee in the near future.

Item 7 - UNECE Strategic Framework 2012-2013

The secretariat presented the draft UNECE strategic framework for the 2012-2013 biennium. The EXCOM gave the green light for the text to be submitted to UN Headquarters.

Item 8 - Progress in the implementation of the Executive Committee's recommendations concerning the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

The EXCOM thanked the Chairman of UN/CEFACT and the secretariat for the reports and documents provided for this item. It took note of the progress made and encouraged UN/CEFACT and the secretariat to continue to work together to implement EXCOM's recommendations as adopted in February 2009.

The EXCOM reiterated that it would particularly like to see that the needs and priorities of countries with economies in transition were taken into account in the work of UN/CEFACT, that transparency in all undertakings was ensured and that the principle of ascertaining support by at least 3 countries for a new standard to be developed was effectively applied. Urging that the respective deadlines set for the implementation of the recommendations be respected, it requested another overall progress report to be submitted to the EXCOM at the latest in a year's time.

Item 9 - Further discussion concerning the Committee on Trade

There was general acceptance of the draft of the EXCOM's recommendations concerning the Committee on Trade, which was prepared by the EXCOM Chairman following several rounds of informal meetings and consultations among EXCOM members. The EXCOM agreed that these recommendations, with the slight adjustments proposed by the EU delegation, should be tabled for formal adoption at its next formal meeting.

The EXCOM Chairman thanked all parties for their efforts, as well as for their flexibility which enabled the EXCOM to reach agreement on this long pending issue.

The interim Chairman of the Committee on Trade expressed his commitment to implement the recommendations and move the work of the Committee forward in accordance with the directions provided by the EXCOM.

Item 10 - Extrabudgetary Project: Aid for Trade needs assessments in transition economies

The EXCOM took note of the extrabudgetary project and thanked the Russian Federation for the financial contribution that would enable the needs assessments to be carried out. The Chairman encouraged other countries to also consider making a contribution.

Item 11 - Other business

The Executive Secretary reported on the discussion concerning the joint ECE-ESCAP office in Central Asia that took place during the meeting of the SPECA Governing Council in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in November 2009, at the end of which there was no consensus between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on where to locate the mentioned office. He further reported that, following that meeting and having received a letter from the Executive Secretary of ESCAP informing ESCAP's choice of the location as the city of Almaty and its decision to proceed with the preparations to make the office functional as soon as possible, he replied confirming his agreement, based on the conclusion reached at the EXCOM at its meeting on 16 October 2009 that the matter should be left in the hands of the Executive Secretary.

The representative of Kyrgyzstan reiterated his country's position and informed the meeting that it would be conveyed to the Secretary-General in New York.

The EXCOM expressed its satisfaction that the location of the joint ECE-ESCAP office in Central Asia was finally decided. The decision had been made following a comprehensive process of consultations with all parties concerned. It was the EXCOM's hope that the countries of Central Asia would soon start to benefit from the operations of this joint office.

For all subsidiary bodies that were presented to EXCOM by the different Chairpersons as requiring to be established or renewed, it was agreed that the secretariat could proceed to make preparations for the meetings of these groups and that the EXCOM wished for the documents to be translated as deemed necessary by the respective Divisions responsible for these bodies. This was in order that the relevant documents could be produced and translated on time, especially for those meetings that were planned to take place in the early part of 2010.
