Towards the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

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Twenty-second session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy
Geneva, Switzerland   25 - 27 January 2017
Next milestone of a long-standing intersectoral collaboration

1989 Frankfurt
1994 Helsinki
1999 London
2004 Budapest
2010 Parma
2015 Haifa (Mid Term Review)
2017 Ostrava
European Environment and Health Process Governance

- WHO Regional Committee for Europe (53 MS)
  - EHP Secretariat
- UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (56 MS)
- European Environment and Health Ministerial Board (EHMB)
- European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF)
  - Ad-Hoc Working Group (AVG)
  - Health in Climate Change WG (HIC)
- 53 WHO European Member States
- 14 Key stakeholders (UN, EU, NGOs, Youth)
Outcomes of the Mid-Term Review meeting (Haifa, Israel, April 2015)

- Complete the “unfinished business”
- Develop an inclusive, transparent, streamlined and visible preparatory process for 2017
- Enhance political engagement through a strengthened governance
- Reconcile the complexity of the underlying global issues with the need to deliver a strong and clear outcome of the ministerial conference focused on a limited number of targeted commitments
The roadmap towards the Sixth Ministerial Conference

Define priority areas and objectives for the declaration

Sixth Ministerial Conference

Consultative process to identify and frame issues

Meetings of the EHTF, consultation with WHO and UNECE Governing Bodies

On the themes agreed in Haifa identifying evidence based policy and interventions
Expected outcomes

Ministerial Declaration

- Implementation plan
- Institutional arrangements
Focus and scope

- Partnership to implement the existing commitments addressing the environmental burden of disease
- Support national policy developments and link them to the international agenda
- Mechanism to implement Health2020 and the SD Agenda, using the SDGs monitoring and reporting system
- Governance serving the implementation
Sixth EHTF meeting (Vienna, Austria, 29-30 Nov 2016)

- 37 Member States
- UNECE, UNEP, the EU Committee, of the Regions, EEA, the REC, CAREC, UNDP, EEHYC, ECOFORUM, HEAL
- Inclusive consultation process
- Held back to back to the International Youth Conference
Main feedback on the Declaration

A short and direct declaration that should:

• Ensure progress on the national level, by developing and implementing a flexible country-specific “portfolio of actions”;

• Link to the Sustainable Development Goals and Health 2020 implementation;

• Highlight more prominently equity, social inclusion and physical and social resilience and the protection of vulnerable groups;

• Emphasize the most important commitments, and the “unfinished business” from the Parma Ministerial Declaration;
Towards a renewed institutional framework for EHP

• **One single body, the European Environment and Health Task Force**, representing all 53 Member States and stakeholders, and **discontinue the EHMB**.

• Encourage representation in the EHTF at the **high strategic/technical level** of Member States and stakeholders, **from both the environment and health sectors**;

• Establish a **Bureau**, based on a small number of Member States elected by the Task Force and EHTF stakeholders, including, NGOs and Youth;

• **Strong and effective national coordination mechanisms**, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders and youth representatives;

• Promote the engagement of Ministers in EHP through their participation in the meetings of the Governing Bodies and in high level segments of meetings of the EHTF, to be convened flexibly;
Towards a renewed institutional framework for EHP (2)

- Strengthen the links between the EHP and the WHO and UNECE governing bodies:
  - yearly sessions/side events at the WHO RC and UNECE CEP,
  - inclusion of EHTF members and representatives of other sectors in national delegations participating in the WHO RC and UNECE governing bodies;

- Support the establishment of a joint WHO/UNECE secretariat, working in close partnership with UNEP and other actors, including the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions;

- Capitalize on the UN regional coordination mechanism for SDGs monitoring and reporting, led by the UNECE. The EHP should be integrated in the issue-based coalition on health.
A shared agenda

Ministerial Conference

- National Portfolios for action
- Envi. Sustainability of Health Systems
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Air Quality
- Sustainable, healthy cities
- Waste and contaminated sites
- Climate Change
- Chemical safety

UNECE MEAs and Processes

- Environmental Performance Reviews
- Espoo Convention on EIA and SEA Protocol, Transition towards carbon neutral economies
- UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health
- LRTAP Convention and Batumi Action on Clean Air
- UNECE/WHO THE PEP and Committee on Housing and Land Management
- Batumi Initiative on Green Economy
- LRTAP, EIA, Water, Arhus Conventions, Transition towards carbon neutral economies
- Convention on the transboundary effects of chemical accidents
The CEP may wish to discuss:

• The links, synergy and coordination between the WHO Environment and Health and UNECE Environment for Europe Processes
  • Link between the Sixth EH Ministerial Conference in 2017 and the Ninth EfE Conference in 2021

• The proposal to establish a joint WHO/UNECE secretariat for the EHP

• The transition towards the new institutional arrangements, particularly with respect to the EHMB
  • WHO Standing Committee of the Regional Committee decided to stop calls for nominations to the EHMB from the health sector at its last meeting in December 2016;
  • Current members of the EHMB representing the health sector will remain in office until the new institutional arrangements will be in place.
Timeline

25-27 Jan. 2017
UNECE-CEP
Geneva

15 Feb – 1 Mar online
MS consultation

23 March – AWG
meeting

10-11 April
2017
7th EHTF
TBC

20-21 May
2017
SCRC
Geneva

13-15 June
2017 6th
Ministerial
Conference on EH

WHO
RC and
UNECE
CEP
See you in Ostrava!

GONG Convention Centre,
Dolni Vitkovice

13-15 June 2017