



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Seventeenth session

Geneva, 2–5 November 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 November 2010\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Outcomes of the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy.
4. Environmental Performance Reviews:
  - (a) Environmental Performance Review of Azerbaijan;
  - (b) Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
  - (c) Environmental Performance Reviews Programme: third cycle of reviews.
5. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region.

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\* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/currentSession.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail ([efe@unece.org](mailto:efe@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.

6. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference:
  - (a) Main outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) Host country preparations;
  - (c) Draft agenda;
  - (d) Official substantive documents;
  - (e) Conference outcomes;
  - (f) Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments report;
  - (g) Organizational issues;
  - (h) Resource requirements;
  - (i) Communication strategy.
7. Environmental monitoring and assessment.
8. Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements: strengthening synergies and capacity-building activities.
9. Cross-sectoral activities:
  - (a) Education for sustainable development;
  - (b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
  - (c) Environment and security;
  - (d) European Environment and Health Process.
10. Calendar of meetings.
11. Other business.
12. Closure of the meeting.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy’s activity is guided by the goals set out in the document on future strategic directions for the environment adopted in 2003 (CEP/2004/2) and by the workplan on UNECE reform adopted in 2005 (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1). In 2007, UNECE adopted the revised terms of reference for the Committee (E/ECE/1447/Add.1).
2. The reform plan of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process adopted by the Committee, and subsequently endorsed by the UNECE, mandated the Committee to act as the convening body for the preparatory processes for the EfE Ministerial Conferences (see ECE/CEP/S/152, annex I, and corr.1).
3. Information and materials for this meeting are being made available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>).

## **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

4. Following the opening of the meeting, the Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/CEP/160). The provisional timetable is presented in information paper 1.

## **2. Election of officers**

5. The Committee will be invited to elect a Chair and other members of the Bureau.

## **3. Outcomes of the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy**

6. Following a decision by the Committee at its sixteenth session in October 2009, the meeting of the Extended Bureau took place in Geneva on 16 and 17 March 2010. The outcomes of the meeting are presented in document ECE/CEP/2010/1.

7. The Committee is invited to take note of these outcomes. The Committee's current session will follow up on relevant decisions by the Extended Bureau.

## **4. Environmental Performance Reviews**

### **(a) Environmental Performance Review of Azerbaijan**

8. The Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Azerbaijan. The Committee will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report elaborated by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at their meeting on 28 and 29 October 2010.

### **(b) Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

9. The Committee will conduct a peer review of the environmental performance of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Committee will be invited to conclude the peer review by adopting the recommendations contained in the draft report elaborated by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance at their meeting on 28 and 29 October 2010.

### **(c) Environmental Performance Reviews Programme: third cycle of reviews**

10. The second cycle of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme is at an advanced stage — to date, 13 out of 20 countries have undergone a second cycle of reviews. Furthermore, two countries, Azerbaijan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, are currently being reviewed. In addition, two countries, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, are scheduled to undergo a review. More information on the Programme's activities is available on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/epr/welcome.htm>).

11. The Committee will be invited to consider the future of the Programme, including the possibility of having a third cycle of environmental performance reviews, as well as addressing this issue within the Seventh EFE Ministerial Conference. To this end, the secretariat prepared a background document to facilitate the discussion (ECE/CEP/2010/8).

## **5. Sustainable development in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region**

12. The secretariat will inform the Committee on activities related to promoting sustainable development in the region, such as UNECE participation in the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 3–14 May 2010), as well as developments in preparing for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, to be held in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20). The Conference will aim at securing renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assessing progress and implementation gaps in meeting already agreed commitments and addressing new and emerging challenges. The two themes of the Rio+20 Conference are: (a) green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

13. The Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided and, given the green economy theme, to consider ways to link the regional preparations for Rio+20 with the preparations for the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference with a view to ensuring synergies between those processes, as well as to rationalize the Rio+20 preparatory process.

## **6. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

### **(a) Main outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific**

14. The Committee will be briefed on the main outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which will be held in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010.

15. The Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider in particular the outcomes that are relevant for the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference, which will take place in Astana from 21 to 23 September 2011 (Astana Ministerial Conference).

### **(b) Host country preparations**

16. The representative of Kazakhstan will be invited to inform the Committee about progress in the preparations to host the Astana Ministerial Conference.

### **(c) Draft agenda**

17. In accordance with the EfE Reform Plan, the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference agenda should be agreed by the Committee 12 months prior to the Conference (ECE/CEP/S/152, para. 12 (a)). Consequently, the Committee is expected to reach a decision on the agenda of the Conference at its seventeenth session.

18. The Extended Bureau, at its meeting in March 2010, agreed on the dates and the time frame for the Conference and suggested a possible format for the Conference’s sessions. Furthermore, the Extended Bureau agreed that the Bureau of the Committee, with support from the secretariat, would draft the provisional agenda for the Conference.

19. The Committee will be invited to consider the draft Conference agenda with a view to approving it (ECE/CEP/2010/3).

**(d) Official substantive documents**

20. In accordance with the EfE Reform Plan, only one official document per selected theme will be prepared by UNECE or another EfE partner, in close cooperation with other EfE partners. Thus, two thematic substantive documents will be prepared for the Astana Ministerial Conference, i.e., on sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and on greening the economy: streamlining the environment into economic development.

21. The Committee will be invited to consider for approval the draft outlines of these two documents (ECE/CEP/2010/6 and ECE/CEP/2010/7).

**(e) Conference outcomes**

22. In line with the EfE Reform Plan, an agreed outcome of no more than two pages on follow-up and further actions, strictly limited, in terms of scope, to the themes of the Conference, will be prepared by the Committee in advance of the Conference. The Extended Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare a draft framework of the agreed outcome for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee.

23. The Committee will be invited to consider the draft framework of an agreed outcome of the Astana Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2010/4).

24. Furthermore, the Committee should be informed in advance of the Conference on any possible: (i) statements, initiatives, agreements, pledges by interested ministers and stakeholders on specific subjects and/or for specific subregions; and (ii) policy tools, including strategies, action plans with time frames, guidelines, recommendations, best practices and lessons learned that are intended to be presented to the Conference by interested countries of the UNECE region and/or organizations taking the lead on these issues. To that end, interested EfE actors should inform the Committee at its seventeenth session of such envisaged documents, and to make available the electronic version of the final drafts of those documents in three languages (English, French and Russian) for the Committee's information at its special session in May 2011.

25. The Committee will be invited to consider the information presented on possible Conference outcomes.

**(f) Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments report**

26. The Committee will be briefed on the progress in preparing the Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments (EEAoA) report. The UNECE Steering Group on Environmental Assessments (SGEA) held its first meeting in Geneva on 25 and 26 March 2010, and will meet for the second time on 1 November 2010. Documents and information related to the work of the SGEA are available on the "Environment for Europe" Process webpage (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html>).

27. The Committee will be invited to consider the progress in preparing the EEAoA report and the outline of the report.

**(g) Organizational issues**

28. The Extended Bureau considered the draft document regarding organizational issues for the Astana Ministerial Conference. The secretariat revised the document to reflect comments by the Extended Bureau (ECE/CEP/2010/2).

29. The Committee will be invited to approve the document on organizational issues for the Conference.

**(h) Resource requirements**

30. The EfE Reform Plan stipulates that for the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself, the necessary extrabudgetary financial resources will have to continue to be provided to UNECE to supplement the United Nations core budget resources. The Plan also states that the host country should assume relevant financial commitments.

31. The Committee will be invited to consider the resource requirements for the preparatory process and the Conference (information paper 2), as well as ways to ensure smooth and efficient Conference preparations. Interested countries and organizations may inform the meeting on envisaged contributions for the preparation of the Astana Ministerial Conference.

**(i) Communication strategy**

32. The EfE Reform Plan calls for the development of an effective communication strategy, including broad mass-media coverage, as appropriate, comprising, inter alia, special events for journalists, circulation of electronic newsletters and maintaining a dedicated website. The secretariat, in consultation with the host country, prepared a draft communication strategy for the Astana Ministerial Conference (ECE/CEP/2010/5).

33. The Committee will be invited to consider for approval the draft communication strategy for the Conference.

**7. Environmental monitoring and assessment**

34. The Committee will be invited to consider the results of the second and third meetings of the Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators (Geneva, 3–4 May 2010 and 1–2 September 2010, respectively; see documents ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2010/2 and ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2010/7), as well as of the eleventh session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 2–3 September 2010; see document ECE/CEP/AC.10/2010/2).

35. The Committee will be invited to comment on the progress made in the activities of the two bodies and consider the extension of their mandates.

**8. Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements: strengthening synergies and capacity-building activities**

36. The secretariats of the UNECE environmental conventions will brief the Committee about their activities related to the implementation of the conventions and their protocols with a particular focus on capacity-building activities. The Committee will also be informed

about a mechanism proposed to strengthen synergies and joint capacity-building activities of the five UNECE environmental conventions.

37. The Committee will be invited to consider the information provided and the proposed mechanism.

## **9. Cross-sectoral activities**

### **(a) Education for sustainable development**

38. The Committee will be informed about the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (Geneva, 17–18 March 2010; ECE/CEP/AC.13/2010/2). The documents and materials of the meeting are available online at: <http://www.unece.org/env/esd/SC.Meet.htm>.

39. The Committee may wish to take note of the information.

### **(b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

40. The Committee will be informed about the outcomes of the seventh session of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (Geneva, 22–23 October 2009; ECE/AC.21/SC/2009/8–EUR/09/5068055/9). The Committee will also be informed on the preparations for the eighth session of the Steering Committee, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 8 to 10 December 2010. The documents and materials for these meetings are available online at: <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/welcome.htm>.

41. The Committee may wish to consider the information provided, as appropriate.

### **(c) Environment and security**

42. The Committee will be informed on the ongoing contributions of UNECE to the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) (information paper 3).

43. The Committee may wish to provide comments on the actions taken.

### **(d) Environment and Health Process**

44. The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Parma, Italy, from 10 to 12 March 2010, decided to establish a European Environment and Health Ministerial Board to serve as a political driving force of the Environment and Health Process. The Board will be composed of eight ministers or their high-level representatives nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe from the health sector and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy from the environmental sector, so as to ensure equal sectoral and geographical representation. The Board will be accountable to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

45. As a follow-up to that decision, the secretariat sent letters to the 56 ministers of environment in the region, inviting them to express their interest in serving a two-year term on the Board (2011–2012). The secretariat in consultation with the Bureau will consider all applications received and will inform the Committee on the nominees in due time before its seventeenth session.

46. The Committee on Environmental Policy will be invited to consider and appoint four board members from the environment sector. The Committee will base its decision on the provisions of the Institutional Framework for the European Environment and Health Process,<sup>1</sup> endorsed by the Parma Ministerial Conference. At the same time, the WHO Regional Committee for Europe will decide on Board members from the health sector at its meeting in Moscow in September 2010. The first meeting of the Ministerial Board will take place in the first half of 2011. Conference documents are available on the WHO website (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/conferences/fifth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health>).

## **10. Calendar of meetings**

47. The special session of the Committee is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 24 to 27 May 2011. The schedule of preparatory meetings for the Conference is contained in annex II to the report of the meeting of the Extended Bureau (ECE/CEP/2010/1) and on the website (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html>).

## **11. Other business**

48. The Committee will be invited to discuss any other business that might be brought to its attention. Delegations wishing to propose items will be invited to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **12. Closure of the meeting**

49. The Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Committee's conclusions and decisions and close the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for circulation to the Committee after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the UNECE website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>).

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<sup>1</sup> The European Environment and Health Process (2010–2016): Institutional framework (EUR/55934/7).