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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION
as adopted by the Committee on 3 June 1994

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- I. Programme of work
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IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION DECISION I (48)

Paragraphs

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| (i) | Possible draft decisions and/or recommendations to be discussed and possibly adopted by the Commission at its next session | <u>none</u> |
| (ii) | Implementation of decisions adopted by the Commission, including application of resolutions adopted by the ECOSOC and the General Assembly (inputs made to global programmes and interregional cooperation) | 9-10, 22-30 |
| (iii) | Possible amendments to the mandate of the PSB, for discussion and, possibly, adoption by the Committee | <u>none</u> |
| (iv) | Programme of work | |
| | - implementation of the programme of work, including difficulties encountered and proposals to streamline activities, to enhance the efficiency of the subsidiary body and to assist the economies in transition | 33, 35-37, 40,
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| (v) | Cooperation | |
| | - cooperation with other ECE Subsidiary Bodies active in other but related fields of activity and suggestions for the improvement of such cooperation | 22-30 and 47 |
| | - cooperation with other relevant organizations and institutions, and suggestions for the improvement of such cooperation | 12, 14, 16, 27,
31-33, 36, 38,
41-42, 48-49 |
| (vi) | Evaluation of the publications (in cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians) . | <u>none</u> |

Introduction

1. The first session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) was held in Geneva from 30 to 31 May 1994.
2. The meeting was attended by delegations of: Albania; Armenia; Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America.
3. The session was attended by a representative of the European Union (EU).
4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the following specialized agencies and intergovernmental organization attended: the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO); the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).
6. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. K. BÄRLUND (Finland), opened the session.
7. Mr. Y. BETHELOT, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, addressed the Committee.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

8. The agenda as contained in documents ECE/ENVWA/37 and Corr.1 was adopted.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FORTY-EIGHTH AND FORTY-NINTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

9. The Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division drew the attention of the Committee to the discussions held and the decisions adopted by the Commission at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of relevance to the work of the Committee (ENVWA/R.87 and E/ECE(49)L.13).

10. The Committee took note of the results of the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission and decided to bear them in mind when discussing the various agenda items.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"

11. The Committee was informed by Mr. W. KAKEBEEKE (Netherlands), Chairman of the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe", of the progress made in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference to be hosted by the Government of Bulgaria in Sofia in October 1995. The delegation

of Bulgaria informed the Committee of the activities under way in this country for the organization of the Conference and referred to the financial support requirements in that regard.

12. A representative of WHO/EURO and the delegation of Finland provided information on the preparations for the second European Conference on Environment and Health to be held in Helsinki in June 1994, including proposals for the establishment of a European environment and health committee.

13. Some delegations expressed concern over the lack of progress in the implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe and wondered if there was still enough time to prepare the Sofia Conference adequately. Other delegations stressed the need to accelerate preparations for the October 1994 Conference, which should not be limited to the problems of countries in transition only but should have a broader, pan-European dimension. Two delegations expressed the interest of their Governments in promoting concrete activities on public participation and compliance with environmental conventions, respectively, in view of the Sofia Conference.

14. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the report on the first session of the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (ENVWA/WG.6/2);

(b) Expressed support for the proposed establishment of a European environment and health committee for the implementation of the Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe, and agreed to consider the practicalities of its participation at its special session in autumn 1994 in the light of a decision to be taken on the subject at the second European Conference on Environment and Health (Helsinki, June 1994).

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS PENDING THEIR ENTRY INTO FORCE

15. The reports of the second and the third meetings of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ENVWA/WG.4/4 and 6) were introduced by Mr. J. ZUREK (Poland), Chairman of the Meeting. Mr. M. VARELA (Spain), Chairman of the Working Party on Water Problems, informed the Committee about the results of the work undertaken at its seventh session for the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ENVWA/WP.3/23). In the absence of the Chairman of the third meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, a representative of the secretariat introduced the report of this meeting (ENVWA/WG.3/6).

16. During these introductions and the ensuing discussion, the following issues were addressed in particular: the state of the ratification of or accession to the Conventions; capacity-building to assist countries, in particular those in transition, to comply with the obligations under these Conventions, including setting up the necessary infrastructure, both national and regional, for their implementations; the gathering and exchange of

information on policies and strategies under the Conventions; financial arrangements; difficulties encountered in the adaptation of national legislation to ratify or to accede to the Conventions; possible future role of the Committee regarding international environmental legislation once the Conventions enter into force, including the elaboration of model texts on issues common to all Conventions such as compliance monitoring, dispute settlement and liability and responsibility for transboundary environmental impacts; the role of the Sofia Ministerial Conference in speeding up the entry into force of the Conventions; seeking the substantive contribution of international organizations, such as WHO, to the implementation of these Conventions in their respective fields of competence.

17. The representative of the European Union informed the Committee about the process of the ratification of the Conventions. In this respect, ongoing revision of relevant Directives was also mentioned together with possible implications for the progress made in the ratification of the Conventions.

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation confirmed that a workshop on public participation in EIA would be organized in the Russian Federation at the beginning of 1995.

19. The delegation of France proposed to organize a workshop on experience gained from past industrial accidents, in cooperation with OECD, which would be held in France in the vicinity of Geneva in connection with the fourth meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in February 1995.

20. The delegation of the United States of America reserved its position regarding the application in this country of the recommendations to ECE Governments as contained in document ENVWA/WP.3/23.

21. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the report of the third meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ENVWA/WG.3/6); adopted the report on policies and strategies promoting EIA (ENVWA/WG.3/R.10 and Add.1) with country-related additions and amendments provided by delegations to the secretariat; and requested the secretariat to publish it together with the reports on legal and methodological aspects of EIA in a transboundary context (ENVWA/WG.3/R.12 and 13) as a new volume in the Environmental Series;

(b) Took note of the reports of the second and the third meetings of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ENVWA/WG.4/4 and 6);

(c) Took note of the progress made by the Working Party on Water Problems at its seventh session in the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, pending its entry into force (ENVWA/WP.3/23); adopted the report on strategies and policies on the protection and use of transboundary waters (ENVWA/WP.3/R.30, R.37 and R.38) with country-related amendments and additions submitted by delegations, and requested the secretariat to publish

it as a new volume in the ECE Water Series; adopted the recommendations to ECE Governments on the application of the indicative lists of priority hazardous substances, other substances with proven adverse effects, and industrial sectors/industries from which these substances derive, as contained in document ECE/CEP/2, and requested the secretariat to transmit these recommendations to ECE Governments;

(d) Invited the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" to elaborate proposals for consideration by the Sofia Ministerial Conference on speeding up the ratification processes and improved implementation of and compliance with ECE environmental conventions;

(e) Decided to have a policy debate at its second session on the future role of the Committee regarding international environmental legislation.

V. PROMOTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL OF THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED)

22. The secretariat informed the Committee of the submission of the ECE Action Plan to Implement Agenda 21 (E/ECE/1303) to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It also informed the Committee of contributions for the preparation of other substantive reports for the second session of that Commission in May 1994. Pursuant to decision F(49) taken by the Economic Commission for Europe in April 1994, the secretariat provided information regarding the resource implications of the ECE Action Plan.

23. Several delegations voiced the need to promote the regional implementation of Agenda 21 in general and stressed the importance of the follow-up to UNCED in the ECE region passing through the "Environment for Europe" process and playing a major role in the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Sofia in autumn 1995.

24. A number of delegations informed the Committee of action taken at national level to implement the outcome of UNCED, in particular Agenda 21. In this respect the attention of the Committee was drawn to several national action plans which had been or were being elaborated to promote sustainable development. It was suggested that these plans should be made available to the secretariat.

25. Some delegations proposed that the Chairman should consult the Chairmen of the other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies to identify problems and bottlenecks in implementing activities in the field of environment and sustainable development, so that the Committee at its next session would be in a position to make recommendations for appropriate action to the Commission at its fiftieth session pursuant to Commission decision F (49).

26. The delegation of Sweden informed the Committee about its Government's readiness to organize the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment under the auspices of ECE in 1996 along the lines of decision G (49) and suggested that the Committee should play an active role in the preparations for that Conference.

27. The delegation of Sweden expressed the view that UNEP in cooperation with ECE should follow up the decision taken at the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider the feasibility of arranging a regional meeting on the application of environmental norms by the military sector and declared its intention to organize a workshop on this topic during the winter 1994/95.

28. The Director of the Industry and Technology Division informed the Committee about recent initiatives regarding industry and the environment taken in the fields of the chemical industry, including the CHEMISEED programme (Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development); metallurgy and ecology; engineering industries and automation; and standardization. Particular emphasis was given to the preparations for the possible setting-up of a regional forum on sustainable industrial development; a meeting of experts on this subject was scheduled for November 1994.

29. One delegation stressed the need for more attention to be given to the promotion of sustainable development, pollution control and safety in small and medium-sized industries.

30. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the information provided by the secretariat on this agenda item;

(b) Decided to prepare, at the special session of the Committee in autumn 1994, recommendations to the Commission for appropriate action regarding the ECE activities in the field of environment and sustainable development, on the basis of proposals to be prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat;

(c) Invited delegations to designate environmental experts for participation in the November 1994 meeting on a possible regional forum on sustainable industrial development and in the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, the first session of which would be held in Geneva on 20-21 June 1994, and requested the Preparatory Committee to keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed about the progress made.

VI. GUIDELINES ON INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

31. The secretariat introduced the draft guidelines on integrated environmental management in countries in transition (ENVWA/R.88), prepared by the secretariat with the assistance of country experts on the basis of the results of the series of workshops organized under the ECE/UNEP activity on Strengthening Environmental Management Capabilities in Eastern and Central European Countries.

32. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the quality and timeliness of the draft guidelines. The importance of the wide involvement of experts from the West and from countries in transition in their preparation was

stressed. A number of delegations raised various concerns or proposed specific amendments or additions to this document. Some delegations voiced the need for the document to be adopted at the Commission level. Many delegations preferred the guidelines to be adopted as soon as possible in order to take full advantage of the ongoing process of governmental restructuring and policy formulation in their countries to strengthen national environmental administrations. Other delegations, while agreeing that countries in transition should make full use of the document in the restructuring process, stressed that they were not in a position to adopt the document at this stage. They suggested instead that the Committee should take note of the document and opposed its publication as a code of practice. A number of delegations proposed the transmission of the document to the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP).

33. In the light of a thorough discussion, the Committee:

(a) Gave its general approval to the Guidelines on Integrated Environmental Management in Countries in Transition as contained in document ENVWA/R.88 and requested the secretariat to provide for their wide dissemination;

(b) Decided to transmit the Guidelines to the EAP Task Force for possible use in its activities.

VII. PROGRESS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

A. Environmentally sound technology and products

34. The delegation of Poland presented the results of the Seminar on Low-Waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products held in Warsaw, Poland, 24-27 May 1993 (ENVWA/SEM.6/3) and informed the meeting of the publication by the host authorities of the proceedings of the Seminar. The delegation of the Netherlands informed the meeting of the results of the work of the Task Force on Environmental Product Profiles and presented its final report (ENVWA/R.90), including conclusions and draft recommendations.

35. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the report of the Seminar on Low-Waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products (ENVWA/SEM.6/3), and adopted the recommendations to ECE Governments as contained in document ECE/CEP/3;

(b) Took note of the report on environmental product profiles (ENVWA/R.90), and adopted the recommendations to ECE Governments as contained in document ECE/CEP/3;

(c) Requested the secretariat to transmit both sets of recommendations to ECE Governments.

B. Management of hazardous chemicals

36. The delegation of Austria informed the meeting of the preparations for the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals, to be convened in cooperation with OECD in Vienna (Austria) on 17-20 October 1994, and expressed the readiness of its Government to provide financial assistance to participants from countries in transition.

37. The Committee took note of the progress made in the preparations for the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals and called on delegations to arrange for the active participation of qualified experts.

C. Environment and economics

38. The secretariat introduced the report on the fourth session of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics (ENVWA/WG.2/8) and informed the meeting of the outcome of the workshops on economic restructuring and the environment (Budapest, March 1993), organized by the Government of Hungary in cooperation with OECD, and on financing environmental policies (Geneva, January 1994), organized by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland.

39. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, while accepting the adoption of the recommendations to ECE Governments on financing environmental policies, voiced their reservation about the texts of paragraphs (a) and (b) of the section on Multilateral financial assistance.

40. The Committee took note of the report of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics (ENVWA/WG.2/8) and adopted the recommendations to ECE Governments on the financing of environmental policies as contained in annex II to that report with the following amendments to the section on Environmental funds and eco-banks:

Paragraph (a)

At the beginning of this paragraph insert As a general rule,

Paragraph (c)

After the public insert and the economic actors concerned

D. Environmental performance reviews

41. The Chairman presented the results of the Workshop on Environmental Performance Reviews convened in cooperation with OECD on 26-27 May 1994 in Geneva.

42. Delegations participating in the discussion focused on such issues as the need to increase the competence of the ECE secretariat to conduct performance reviews; the need for the ECE secretariat to increase its responsibilities in the course of the OECD pilot reviews of Bulgaria and Belarus; specifics of the review methodology for countries in transition; the need for a peer review mechanism within the ECE; and the pilot review of Estonia. The OECD

representative noted that the OECD methodology was applied successfully in the pilot review of Poland. Some delegations expressed their concerns about the tentative schedule for the ECE review of Estonia in view of the upcoming OECD reviews of Bulgaria and Belarus.

43. The delegation of Estonia reconfirmed the interest of its Government in being reviewed by the ECE. The delegation of the Russian Federation offered to provide an expert for the review of Estonia. The delegations of Finland, France, Norway and the United States expressed the willingness of their Governments to make voluntary financial contributions to the ECE work on performance reviews.

44. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the outcome of the Workshop on Environmental Performance Reviews;

(b) Decided to undertake in 1994-96, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, a pilot ECE review of Estonia;

(c) Invited delegations to make voluntary contributions for that purpose to the ECE Trust Fund on Environmental Performance Reviews and "Environment for Europe"; and

(d) Decided to consider the above and further issues of the ECE review programme at its special session in the autumn of 1994.

E. Responsibility and liability

45. The delegation of Austria, lead country of the task force on responsibility and liability, introduced the report on the proposed further activities of the task force (ENVWA/R.92). Some delegations, referring to the late submission of that document, emphasized the need to consult their capitals prior to giving further consideration to the proposed activities.

46. The Committee decided to consider the proposals contained in document ENVWA/R.92 at its special session in the autumn of 1994.

VIII. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

47. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the documents ENVWA/R.93 and R.94; and

(b) Requested the secretariat to continue keeping the Committee informed about environment-related activities of other principal subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

IX. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

48. Written information, submitted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, was circulated among the delegations. The representatives of EU and ILO updated information on their environment-related activities.

49. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the information provided and thanked the representatives of the other United Nations bodies and international organizations and institutions for their contributions;

(b) Requested the secretariat to take the necessary steps to distribute written information on activities of other United Nations bodies and international organizations and institutions at the second session of the Committee.

X. PROGRAMME OF WORK

50. In response to a request by some delegations, the secretariat informed the meeting about available and required voluntary contributions to the ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and the ECE Trust Fund for Environmental Performance Reviews and "Environment for Europe" for the Committee's activities.

51. Some delegations proposed specific amendments to the draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat (ENVWA/R.95).

52. The Committee:

(a) Adopted the programme of work as contained in annex I to the present report;

(b) Expressed its gratitude to those Governments which had provided contributions earmarked for environmental activities to the TFACT and the Trust Fund for Environmental Performance Reviews and "Environment for Europe", and invited Governments to make further contributions.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

53. A tentative schedule of meetings under the auspices of the Committee covering the period up to its second session is contained in annex II to this report.

54. The delegation of Kazakhstan, a new member State of the ECE, thanked the Executive Secretary of the ECE for his welcoming address and expressed the strong interest of its Government in the Committee's activities.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SECOND SESSION

55. The Committee elected officers for its second session: Mr. K. BÄRLUND (Finland), Chairman; Mr. W. KAKEBEEKE (Netherlands), Mr. V. KOSTIN (Russian Federation), Mr. D. MOUNT (United States), Mr. B. NATOV (Bulgaria), Mrs. B. QUINCY (France), and Mr. I. TOKES (Hungary), Vice-Chairpersons.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION

56. When adopting the report of the session, the delegation of Canada joined the reservation expressed by some countries as referred to in paragraph 39.

57. The Committee adopted the report of its first session on 3 June 1994.

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK

SUBPROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.1: "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" PROCESS

Description: Pursuant to the Declaration adopted at the Lucerne Ministerial Conference and in accordance with the decisions taken by the Senior Advisers at their special session on 21 October 1993 (ECE/ENVWA/34, para. 8), the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" will serve as the central coordinating body for the further development of the "Environment for Europe" process.

01.1.1 Preparations for the Sofia Ministerial Conference

Description: The Senior Governmental Officials will oversee the follow-up to the Lucerne Conference and supervise the substantive preparations for the Ministerial Conference to be held in Sofia (Bulgaria) in October 1995.

Work to be undertaken: Documents prepared by or under the auspices of the Senior Governmental Officials, including the draft ministerial declaration, will be submitted to the Ministerial Conference for consideration and eventual adoption.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.1.2 Environmental Programme for Europe

Description: The Environmental Programme for Europe (EPE) will be further developed on the basis of the "Europe's Environment 1993" report prepared by the European Commission in cooperation with the ECE.

Work to be undertaken: The Senior Governmental Officials will address policy tools and mechanisms for inclusion in the EPE.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.1.3 Environmental rights and obligations

Description: The Senior Governmental Officials will review experience of member countries regarding the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and elaborate draft guidelines and other proposals on effective tools and mechanisms promoting public participation in environmental decision-making.

Work to be undertaken: A task force led by the Netherlands will prepare a report on the subject, for consideration by the Senior Governmental Officials. It will also stimulate public participation and capacity-building exercises, perhaps with the assistance of other organizations active in this field.

Duration: 1994-1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.2: STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

Description: The diversity of requirements in various parts of the ECE region, particularly in countries in transition, will be reviewed, and the region-wide implications of improving environmental performance in these countries will be assessed. The strengthening of environmental management capabilities of countries in transition and the extension there of relevant systems and practices developed by subregional organizations\institutions will be promoted. This will contribute to the achievement of convergence between the countries of the region.

01.2.1 National environmental performance reviews

Description: The Committee will, in close cooperation with OECD, systematically and analytically review the performance of ECE countries which are non-members of OECD in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and relevant international commitments.

Work to be undertaken: Cooperation with OECD will be pursued for the reviews of Poland, Belarus and Bulgaria, and a pilot review of Estonia will be undertaken under the capacity-building process within the ECE.

Duration: 1994-1996.

01.2.2 Improvement of environmental management in countries with economies in transition

Description: The Committee will consider providing assistance to member countries with economies in transition for the integration of environmental considerations in planning, decision-making and economic activities. Efforts will be coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Work to be undertaken: Upon request from the countries concerned and with the assistance of other member countries and the secretariat, workshops will be organized in cooperation, when appropriate, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), OECD and other relevant international organizations and institutions, in order to, inter alia, exchange information and experience in specific areas of environmental management among competent authorities at different levels and experts from research institutions, and public and private enterprises.

Duration: Continuing.

01.2.3 Management of hazardous chemicals

Description: In the light of decision A (5) of the Senior Advisers, the Committee will continue to promote the extension of existing OECD systems and practices on management of chemicals to the entire ECE region.

Work to be undertaken: An ad hoc meeting will be convened in Vienna (Austria) from 17 to 20 October 1994, in cooperation with OECD, to review the progress made regarding the application of existing OECD systems and practices to the management of chemicals in ECE countries which are non-members of OECD. The ad hoc meeting is expected to elaborate draft recommendations to ECE Governments to this end.

Duration: 1993-1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.3: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Description: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and pursuant to the Commission's decision F (48), the Committee will provide policy guidance on the promotion of the UNCED follow-up at regional level and undertake specific activities according to the ECE Action Plan to Implement Agenda 21, which was transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session in May 1994.

01.3.1 Environment and economics: assessment of the situation in economies in transition

Description: The Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics will evaluate the current situation, problems and obstacles encountered by countries in transition in the field of the environment and economics so as to provide guidance to countries in transition in their efforts to integrate environmental considerations into the reform process.

Work to be undertaken: At its fifth session, the Joint Working Group will consider the situation reports prepared by the delegations of Armenia, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the assistance of the secretariat. On the basis of these reports, updates of past reports and other relevant documentation, a group of rapporteurs will prepare draft recommendations, with the assistance of the secretariat, for consideration by the Joint Working Group at its fifth session.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.3.2 Use of economic instruments for environmental policies

Description: The Joint Working Group will promote the exchange of experience between countries of the ECE region on the use of emission standards and economic instruments for environmental policies. It will also review the progress made in ECE countries which are non-members of the OECD in the

application of the OECD "Guidelines and considerations for the use of economic instruments in environmental policies" and, pursuant to relevant recommendations by the Joint Working Group, it will identify the needs of those countries to meet these recommendations.

Work to be undertaken: At its fifth session, the Joint Working Group will: (a) exchange information on the use of economic instruments for environmental policies; (b) consider parallel and/or integrated reports prepared by the delegations of France, the Russian Federation and other volunteering delegations, on the practical application of economic instruments in specific areas of pollution control; (c) consider a draft report prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the delegation of Hungary on the use of economic instruments in countries in transition based on relevant information provided by delegations in reply to a questionnaire.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.3.3 Pricing of natural resources

Description: The Joint Working Group will promote the exchange of experience between countries of the ECE region on the pricing of natural resources so as to identify the best possible approaches to a sustainable use of these resources.

Work to be undertaken: At its fifth session, the Joint Working Group will decide on further steps to be taken in the light of written comments by delegations on secretariat note ENVWA/WG.2/R.21, of relevant information contained in the situation reports, of the results of a survey on energy prices and taxes in transition economies prepared under the auspices of the Committee on Energy, and of a policy discussion at its fifth session.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.3.4 Interaction between privatization processes and the environment

Description: The Joint Working Group will analyse the interaction between the privatization process currently taking place in countries in transition and the environment, with special emphasis on financing techniques for remedying past damage to the environment.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop will be organized on this issue by the Governments of Estonia, Lithuania and Norway. A report on the workshop will be submitted to the Joint Working Group for consideration at its fifth session.

Duration: 1994-1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.4: CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A
TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

Description: Pursuant to the Resolution on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context adopted by the Senior Advisers at their fourth session, the Signatories to the Convention will strive for the entry into force of the Convention as soon as possible and will seek to implement the Convention to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force.

01.4.1 Policies and strategies promoting environmental impact assessment

Description: The Signatories to the Convention will continue to cooperate in bringing closer together their policies and strategies in relation to environmental impact assessment (EIA). With a view to promoting this cooperation, relevant information will be exchanged and analysed, and ways and means to further harmonize these policies and strategies will be examined, particularly in a transboundary context.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a review of recent developments in national policies and strategies promoting EIA, on the basis of information provided by delegations following guidelines adopted at the second meeting of the Signatories (ENVWA/WG.3/4, annex II) and communicated to the secretariat, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.4.2 Promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Description: Experience gained in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on EIA in a transboundary context will be analysed, including experience in concluding and implementing relevant agreements and other arrangements, according to Article 8 of the Convention and taking into account document ENVWA/WG.3/R.12.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop on bilateral and multilateral agreements on EIA in a transboundary context will be organized by the delegations of the Netherlands and Austria in November 1994. A report on the outcome of the workshop will be submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands to the Meeting of the Signatories, for consideration at the fourth meeting.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.4.3 Public participation in EIA

Description: In order to facilitate the practical application of the provisions of the Convention dealing with public participation in a transboundary context, relevant experience will be analysed.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop on public participation will be held at the beginning of 1995 in the Russian Federation, subject to confirmation. It will be organized in cooperation with and with the support of the delegations of

Austria, Finland and the Netherlands. The result of the workshop will be submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation to the Meeting of the Signatories, for consideration at the fourth meeting.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.4.4 Strengthening the capability of future Parties to comply with the obligations under the Convention

Description: In order to ensure an effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, ways and means will be reviewed to strengthen the capability of future Parties, particularly those with economies in transition, to comply with the obligations under the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop will be held in Estonia in September-October 1994 with the aim of elaborating proposals on practical ways and means of strengthening the capabilities of countries in transition to comply with the obligations under the Convention, on the basis of proposals contained in documents ENVWA/WG.3/R.11 and R.12 and a report by the delegation of Canada on the feasibility of establishing a network of centres of excellence in the field of EIA. The results of the workshop will be submitted by the delegation of Estonia to the Meeting of the Signatories, for consideration at the fourth meeting.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.4.5 Methodological aspects

Description: Specific methodological tools will be further reviewed through the preparation and analysis of case-studies on the practical application of specific methods and methodologies used to predict environmental impacts in a transboundary context.

Work to be undertaken: Governmentally designated experts will prepare a report on specific methodologies and criteria to determine the significance of any adverse transboundary impact, taking into account document ENVWA/WG.3/R.13 and a discussion paper compiled by the secretariat with the assistance of the delegation of Finland on the basis of country case-studies, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.4.6 Preparation of draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties

Description: According to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 11 of the Convention, the Parties shall, at their first meeting, consider and by consensus adopt rules of procedure for their meetings. In order to facilitate discussion at the first meeting of the Parties, draft rules of procedure will be elaborated in advance.

Work to be undertaken: The Meeting of the Signatories will seek to finalize the draft rules of procedure on the basis of documents ENVWA/WG.3/R.9 and R.14 at its fourth meeting.

Duration: 1993-1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.5: CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF
TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

Description: Pursuant to decision B (5) adopted by the Senior Advisers at their resumed fifth session, the Working Party on Water Problems will undertake activities on such questions as may be deemed important, pending the entry into force of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

01.5.1 Policies and strategies

Description: The regular exchange of information on steps taken by the Signatories for the implementation of pertinent provisions of the Convention pending its entry into force, will keep the Working Party abreast of recent developments on the protection and rational use of inland waters, both at the national and international levels in the ECE region, and facilitate the convergence of policies and strategies. It will also be useful in selecting priority issues for policy discussion at annual sessions of the Working Party and form a basis for identification of areas of specific cooperation.

Work to be undertaken: A draft review of recent developments in national policies and strategies on the protection and use of transboundary waters will be prepared by the secretariat on the basis of information provided by delegations following the guidelines adopted at the sixth session of the Working Party, as appropriate, for consideration by the Working Party at its eighth session.

Duration: Continuing.

01.5.2 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from point sources

Description: Information will be compiled and policy documents prepared on the major issues of prevention, control and reduction of water pollution from point sources, such as the upgrading of waste-water management systems in accordance with the precautionary principle; the control of pollutants within industrial processes; recycling of water and recovery of valuable substances; the establishment of emission inventories; and the application of appropriate economic incentives and disincentives to encourage the prevention of pollution at source. Cooperation with and the service of relevant water-industry associations will be sought.

Work to be undertaken: A task force with France as lead country will prepare a draft report including policy recommendations on prevention, control and reduction of pollution from point sources for consideration by the Working Party at its eighth session.

Duration: 1993-1995.

01.5.3 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from diffuse sources

Description: Best environmental practices will be examined to promote the reduction of inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances from diffuse sources, in particular those from agriculture, the storage of chemicals and waste disposal. The activity relating to fertilizers and pesticides will be pursued jointly with the Committee on Agriculture.

Work to be undertaken: A task force on control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, with Germany as lead country, will revise the draft guidelines to ECE Governments on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides (ENVWA/WP.3/R.33), for consideration by the Working Party at its eighth session. A Seminar on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution from the Storage of Chemicals and from Waste Disposal will be held in Madrid in September 1995. The seminar programme will be circulated by the secretariat.

Duration: 1993-1995.

01.5.4 Monitoring and assessment of conditions of transboundary waters

Description: Approaches to water and water-related monitoring and measurements, data handling and quality assurance, will be examined together with methods for assessing the conditions of waters and aquatic ecosystems with a view to strengthening the capabilities of riparian countries, particularly countries in transition, to set up or optimize coordinated or joint monitoring and assessment in transboundary waters, attaining better comparability of data, validity of data and compatible data systems, and coordinating relevant methodological work.

Work to be undertaken: A task force, led by the Netherlands, will draw up draft guidelines to ECE Governments on the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including the setting-up of monitoring systems by riparian parties, methods for the biological assessment of transboundary waters, and systems of good laboratory practice, for consideration by the Working Party at its ninth session.

Duration: 1994-1996.

01.5.5 Bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements regarding the protection and use of transboundary waters

Description: Information on bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements within the ECE region for the protection and use of transboundary waters will be compiled and regularly updated. Experience gained in concluding and implementing such agreements will be exchanged.

Work to be undertaken: At its annual sessions, the Working Party will update the consolidated list of agreements on the basis of information submitted by delegations. A complete revised version of the updated list of agreements will be prepared for wide dissemination at three-yearly intervals.

Duration: Continuing.

01.5.6 Legal and administrative aspects

Description: The practical application of relevant provisions of the Convention and experience gained in their application will be analysed, with particular attention being paid, inter alia, to: the practical aspects of adapting existing agreements to the requirements of the Convention; organizational matters of transboundary cooperation; arrangements for the exchange of information between riparian parties; practical arrangements for making information available to the public of riparian parties; and draft rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties.

Work to be undertaken: A task force led by Greece will draw up a draft report on the above practical problems for consideration by the Working Party at its eighth session.

Duration: 1993-1995.

01.5.7 Guidelines on sustainable water management

Description: Practical approaches and instruments will be examined to promote sustainable water management in day-to-day practice, including water-management activities in transboundary waters. Particular attention will be given to water-quality and quantity aspects of ecologically sound and rational water management; the conservation of water resources and aquatic ecosystems; the application of environmental impact assessment and other means of assessment; the use of transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way; and to the development of environmentally sound water-construction works and water-regulation techniques.

Work to be undertaken: A task force with the Netherlands as lead country will draw up a policy document on practical approaches to, and instruments of, water-demand management for the promotion of sustainable water management, for consideration by the Working Party at its eighth session.

Duration: 1993-1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 01.6: CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Description: Pursuant to decision B (5), adopted by the Senior Advisers at their resumed fifth session, the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents will strive for the entry into force of the Convention as soon as possible and seek to implement it to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force.

01.6.1 Information on the implementation of the Convention

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will further strengthen cooperation among ECE countries by exchanging information on the implementation of the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare and circulate a manual containing basic information on the implementation of the Convention, inter alia: illustrative policies and strategies; points of contact for industrial accident notification and mutual assistance; existing national centres, bodies and programmes dealing with industrial accidents; national coordinating mechanisms; bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field. The first issue of the manual will be prepared in 1994. It will then be regularly updated on the basis of information provided by the delegations. It will also include information from international organizations.

Duration: Continued.

01.6.2 Points of contact

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will further strive to facilitate industrial accident notification and mutual assistance, and will promote the designation of points of contact for these purposes. It will identify their requirements and analyse experience gained. The ECE accident notification system will be finalized and simulation exercises will be conducted in order to test its efficiency.

Work to be undertaken: The second consultation of the points of contact will be held in Moscow (Russian Federation) in the second half of 1994.

Duration: 1994.

01.6.3 Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises

Description: As a follow-up to the consultation which took place in Poland in November 1993, the Meeting of the Signatories will develop and implement national training and education systems focused on preparedness, response, and mitigation of the effects of industrial accidents, in particular in countries in transition. The Centre will provide guidance for the establishment of national education and training structures within the framework of national programmes or strategies, and train the trainers. It will promote the networking of national training and exercise centres, and organize regular,

joint training for different target groups at different levels in these countries. To this effect, training programmes/curricula for different target groups dealing with industrial accidents will be developed and implemented through this ECE Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises, which will also serve as a clearing-house.

Work to be undertaken: The Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises will operate in accordance with the mandate set out in annex I to ENVWA/WG.4/6. In particular, it will prepare, in consultation with government-designated experts, all organizational documents, including its terms of reference, financial arrangements and work-plan, and submit them to the Steering Group. This work will be done on the basis of proposals/information submitted by the delegation of Poland. The Centre will prepare a training course on industrial accident emergency, preparedness and response in 1994 and deliver it by means of a workshop. The United States Environmental Protection Agency will sponsor this training course. The Centre will work with the Russian Federation to prepare and organize simulation exercises. The Centre will promote the use of the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in order to involve industry and establish cooperation at the local level.

Duration: 1994.

01.6.4 Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents

Description: As a follow-up to a workshop held in Hungary in March 1994, the Meeting of the Signatories will promote the development of accident prevention policies and programmes through the networking of national and international centres and institutions. In addition, it will undertake projects related to, inter alia: methodologies and procedures to identify and screen hazardous activities; risk assessment and analysis; the application of safety audits; improved internal safety policy; development and implementation of legislation. These activities will be carried out through the ECE Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents.

Work to be undertaken: The Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents will operate in accordance with the mandate set out in annex II to ENVWA/WG.4/6. In particular, it will prepare, in consultation with government-designated experts, all organizational documents, including its terms of reference, financial arrangements and work-plan, and submit them to the Steering Group. This work will be done on the basis of proposals/information submitted by the delegation of Hungary. The Centre will establish means of communication between institutions participating in the network. It will undertake a project, including the organization of a workshop, on the identification and screening of hazardous activities in 1994 subject to the availability of resources. The Government of Germany will promote that project. The Government of Poland will designate an expert to review and compile materials on techniques for screening and rapid risk assessment. The delegation of Slovenia will work with the Centre to develop appropriate legislation and an administrative structure and to adapt existing

legislation to meet the requirements of the provisions of the Convention. They will prepare a workshop where the results will be presented and discussed. The Centre will promote the use of the UNEP APELL programme in order to involve industry and establish cooperation at the local level.

Duration: 1994.

01.6.5. Past industrial accidents

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will exchange and analyse information on past industrial accidents through the Bureau for Risk and Industrial Pollution Analysis (BARPI), the coordinating centre under the Convention, in accordance with its terms of reference, as set out in the annex to document ENVWA/WG.4/R.5.

Work to be undertaken: BARPI will prepare a draft report on experience gained from past industrial accidents which had or could have had transboundary effects in the ECE region, on the basis of information provided voluntarily by delegations using a short information form (ENVWA/WG.4/R.5/Add.2), for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Signatories. Delegations are also free to provide information on other industrial accidents on a voluntary basis. The report profile on past industrial accidents (ENVWA/WG.4/R.5/Add.1) could be used by delegates, as appropriate, as a methodological guide for accident investigation and evaluation activities.

Duration: 1994.

01.6.6 Classification of hazardous substances and identification of hazardous activities

Description: Additional substances, criteria for the classification of hazardous substances and threshold quantities as contained in Annex I to the Convention will be reviewed and updated by the Meeting of the Signatories. Special consideration will be given to the elaboration of draft guidelines and criteria to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 6.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will circulate information regarding Annex I to the Convention provided by delegations and relevant international forums for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Signatories. A meeting will be convened in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories when appropriate.

Duration: 1994-1995.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

17-20 October 1994 Vienna (Austria)	Ad Hoc Meeting on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals
31 October- 1 November 1994 Geneva	Committee on Environmental Policy (special session)
2-4 November 1994 Geneva	Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (third session)
25-26 January 1995 Geneva	Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics (fifth session)
30 January- 3 February 1995 Geneva	Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (fourth session)
8-10 February 1995 Geneva	Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (fourth meeting)
27 February-3 March 1995 Geneva	Working Party on Water Problems (eighth session)
13-16 March 1995 Geneva	Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (fourth meeting)
29-30 May 1995 Geneva	Committee on Environmental Policy (second session)
31 May-2 June 1995 Geneva	Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (fifth session)
11-15 September 1995 Madrid (Spain)	Seminar on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution from the Storage of Chemicals and Waste Disposal
	* * *
5-7 July 1994 Berlin (Germany)	Task force on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides (fifth meeting)
19-23 September 1994 Beekbergen (Netherlands)	Task force on monitoring and assessment of the conditions of transboundary waters (first meeting)

September 1994 Estonia	Workshop on strengthening the capability of future parties to comply with the obligations under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context
Second half 1994 Moscow (Russian Federation)	Second consultation of points of contact for the purpose of industrial accident notifications and mutual assistance
5-7 October 1994 Sophia Antipolis (France)	Task force on the control of water pollution from point sources (third meeting)
7-9 November 1994 Geneva	Task force on legal and administrative problems of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters and International Lakes (third meeting)
November 1994 The Hague (Netherlands)	Task force on sustainable water management (third meeting)
November 1994 The Hague (Netherlands)	Workshop on bilateral and multilateral agreements on EIA in a transboundary context
Late 1994 Geneva	Task force on environmental rights and obligations (second meeting)
December 1994 Geneva	Consultation of governmentally designated experts on methodological aspects of EIA in a transboundary context
January 1995 Russian Federation	Workshop on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context
23-24 January 1995 Geneva	Workshop on the interaction between privatization processes and the environment
6-7 February 1995 (France)	Workshop on experience gained from past industrial accidents
March-April 1995 Lelystad (Netherlands)	Task force on monitoring and assessment of the conditions of transboundary waters (second meeting)
May 1995 Madrid (Spain)	Meeting of rapporteurs for the Seminar on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution from the Storage of Chemicals and Waste Disposal
October 1995 (Poland)	Workshop on industrial accident training and exercises
November 1995 (Hungary)	Workshop on the prevention of industrial accidents
