



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
RESTRICTED

ECE/CEP/14  
12 June 1995

Original: ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION  
as adopted by the Committee on 3 May 1995

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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) . . . . .	8, 9, 13-16
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	- programme of work and calendar of meetings for the coming year(s) . . . . .	41, 42, 45 and annexes II and III
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## Introduction

1. The second session of the Committee on Environmental Policy was held in Geneva from 29 to 31 May 1995.

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; Kazakhstan; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uzbekistan.

3. The session was attended by a representative of the European Community (EC).

4. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also attended.

5. Mr. Y. BERTHELOT, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, addressed the Committee. The summary of his statement was circulated among the delegations.

### I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document ECE/CEP/13, adding an item on the adoption of the report of the special session of the Committee of 31 October-1 November 1994.

### II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

7. The Committee adopted the report on the special session as contained in document ECE/CEP/8.

### III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

8. The Acting 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 fiftieth session of relevance to the work of the Committee (CEP/R.3, E/ECE/(50)/L.13 and ECE/CEP/12).

9. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the results of the fiftieth session of the Commission of concern to it and decided to bear them in mind when discussing the various agenda items;

(b) Took note of the information provided by the delegation of Turkey on the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) to be held in Istanbul in June 1996;

(c) Stated its interest in making a contribution to HABITAT II in line with Commission decision J (50) and invited the secretariat to prepare a report on the results of the Committee's work which had a direct bearing on sustainable human settlements, for adoption by the Committee at its special session in November 1995 as a regional contribution to HABITAT II.

#### IV. PREPARATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"

10. 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 from 23 to 25 October 1995. The delegation of Bulgaria informed the Committee about the activities under way in this country for the organization of the Conference and the results of the Consultative Meeting of the Ministers of Environment from Central and Eastern European Countries, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 18-19 May 1995.

11. The Committee was informed by Mr. P. ROCH (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), about the outcome of the first session of the Committee, held in Bilthoven (Netherlands) from 13 to 14 March 1995.

12. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the progress made by the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (CEP/WG.1/1, 3 and 5);

(b) Took note of the results of the first session of the European Environment and Health Committee and elected Mr. J. Movchan (Ukraine) as one of its four representatives to the EEHC for the remainder of the two-year period (1995-1996);

(c) Decided to consider at its special session in November 1995 a follow-up to the Sofia Ministerial Conference.

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

13. The representative of DPCSD and the ECE secretariat informed the Committee of the results of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development held in April 1995.

14. Mr. SCHIMMING (Germany), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment, and Mr. J. CAPEL FERRER, Director of the Transport Division, informed the Committee about the progress in the preparations for the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment to be convened under the auspices of ECE in 1996.

15. A representative of the Industry and Technology Division informed the Committee on the preparations of a round-table conference on cooperation and sustainable industrial development to be held during the Commission's fifty-first session, following Commission decision E (50).

16. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the information provided in the statements on this agenda item;

(b) Decided to consider at its third session in 1996 further action for the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level on the basis of the results of consultations and coordination undertaken by the Committee's Bureau with other Principal Subsidiary Bodies following Commission decision G (50);

(c) Welcomed the cooperation of the environment and transport sectors in the preparations for the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment and urged the Ministries of Environment to involve their representatives more fully in the national delegations to the Preparatory Committee for this Conference.

#### VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS PENDING THEIR ENTRY INTO FORCE

17. The reports of the fourth meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (CEP/WG.4/2) and of the eighth session of the Working Party on Water Problems (CEP/WP.1/2) were introduced by their Chairmen, Mr. J. ZUREK (Poland) and Mr. VARELA (Spain), respectively. The secretariat introduced the report of the fourth meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (CEP/WG.3/2) and the note on progress made in the implementation of the ECE environmental conventions pending their entry into force (CEP/R.4). The Committee was also informed of the activities undertaken by the Regional Adviser on the Environment.

18. The following issues were addressed in the discussion: progress made in the implementation of the conventions; status of ratification; capacity-building to assist countries in transition, including workshops and seminars; setting up the necessary national and regional infrastructure, including regional coordinating centres; establishing appropriate databases on the conventions; implementation of provisions of the conventions concerning health aspects in cooperation with the European Environment and Health Committee; and preparation of the first meetings of the Parties. Some delegations also informed the Committee about bilateral and multilateral agreements and the preparation of new or the adaptation of existing national and/or supranational legislation.

19. Delegations reported on the intention of their Governments to ratify or to accede to the conventions and, at the same time, they also referred to the difficulties and obstacles encountered during this process, in particular, the lack of expertise and experience in the preparation of a national procedure for ratification or accession to the conventions; translation of the conventions into national languages; insufficient financial resources and absence of national infrastructure for their implementation.

20. Two delegations indicated that their Governments were expected to ratify the Industrial Accidents and EIA Conventions by the end of 1995. Other delegations stated that their respective processes could be completed in the course of 1996. Three delegations also informed the Committee that internal national procedures to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes had been finalized. A representative of the European Community informed the Committee that the Water Convention would probably be ratified later this year, followed by the ratification of the two other conventions.

21. In view of the large chemical, petrochemical, and mining industries, which are potential sources of industrial accidents, the delegation of Kazakhstan expressed its willingness to host a workshop/seminar under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. One delegation expressed the view that the Working Party on Water Problems should also take into consideration subregional activities related to the Danube, Baltic Sea and Black Sea. Another delegation stressed the importance of initiating a subregional project to alleviate transboundary groundwater pollution.

22. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the reports of the recent sessions of the Signatories to the Industrial Accidents Convention, the Signatories to the EIA Convention, and the Working Party on Water Problems (CEP/WG.4/2, CEP/WG.3/2, CEP/WP.1/2);

(b) Adopted decision A (2) on the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents as contained in annex I to this report;

(c) Adopted the guidelines on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture, as contained in document ECE/CEP/15;

(d) Welcomed the setting up of coordinating centres under the Industrial Accidents Convention, the offers by the delegation of Germany and Poland to host two international centres on EIA to support countries in transition under the EIA Convention, and the initiatives undertaken under the Water Convention to set up and/or support appropriate infrastructures to enhance capacity-building in countries in transition, and acknowledge, in particular, the contributions made by the host countries;

(e) Invited the secretariat to continue to arrange for assistance to countries in transition, particularly through the ECE regional advisory service, to draw up project proposals to strengthen their ability to comply with provisions of the conventions for which financial support would be sought from different sources, such as the Technical Support Service of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(f) Called upon delegations to provide, at the request of countries in transition through their respective focal points, the assistance required to support human resources development and institutional capacity-building;

(g) Welcomed the progress made and the steps taken by countries to ratify the conventions this year, and also the offer of the delegation of Norway to host the first meeting of the Parties to the EIA Convention;

(h) Called upon ECE member States and the European Community, if they had not already done so, to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, as soon as possible, with the Depositary as referred to in these conventions.

#### VII. FUTURE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

23. The secretariat introduced a note (CEP/R.5) on the possible future role of the Committee in international legislation.

24. Delegations participating in the discussions recognized that after the entry into force of the three recent ECE conventions, it would be the responsibility of the respective Conferences of the Parties to follow the implementation of the Conventions, and to assist the Parties in strengthening their capabilities to comply with their commitments.

25. Several delegations expressed the view that the Committee could, however, continue after that time to draw up soft-law instruments of relevance to all these conventions and assist countries, in particular the newly independent States, in building their capacities, in promoting subregional programmes for the implementation of the conventions; in assisting in resolving common problems under the conventions at the request of the governing bodies of the conventions; in preparing documentation to facilitate the implementation of legally binding instruments; in furthering the harmonization of environmental legislation in countries in transition with that of EC and the requirements of ECE environmental conventions. Other delegations noted that the starting-point for any action on legal instruments should be paragraph 23 of the Lucerne Ministerial Declaration, which stated that the parties to conventions should serve as the main forum for such work, including at the subregional level, and that the Committee should confine itself to activities where it offered real added value.

26. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the document prepared by the secretariat noting that it constituted a useful basis for future consideration of this vital question; and

(b) Decided to continue the consideration of the subject at its special session in November 1995, taking into account the views expressed by the delegations during the policy debate, summarized in a note to be prepared by the secretariat, and the respective outcome of the Sofia Ministerial Conference.

VIII. PROGRESS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

A. Management of hazardous chemicals

27. Mr. H. KOHLMAN (Austria), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals held in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Vienna (Austria) from 17 to 20 October 1994, presented the results of the Ad Hoc Meeting (CEP/AC.1/1). Mr. B. LONG, Director of the OECD Environment Directorate, expressed his appreciation for the preparation and constructive results of the Ad Hoc Meeting, and reiterated the readiness of OECD to pursue cooperation with the ECE on this issue further.

28. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals and adopted the recommendations as contained in document ECE/CEP/16;

(b) Requested the secretariat to transmit these recommendations to the Governments of ECE countries in transition;

(c) Invited interested delegations to consider the opportunity of organizing and/or sponsoring follow-up activities in cooperation with OECD on establishing and strengthening chemicals management systems in countries in transition based on OECD policies and instruments, in particular on the safety testing of chemicals, conditions for validity of data and the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) procedures;

(d) Decided to organize a follow-up ad hoc meeting in 1997/1998 to review progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations to Governments of ECE Countries in Transition on the Management of Hazardous Chemicals, and to invite the OECD Environment Policy Committee to cooperate in the organization of this meeting as it had done in the past.

B. Environment and economics

29. The secretariat introduced the report on the fifth session of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics and informed the meeting of the outcome of the workshop on the interaction between privatization processes and the environment organized by the Governments of Estonia, Lithuania and Norway (Geneva, January 1995).

30. The Committee took note of the report of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics (CEP/WG.2/2) and of the workshop on the interaction between privatization processes and the environment (CEP/WG.2/R.11).

C. Environmental performance reviews

31. The secretariat informed the Committee about the progress made in the ECE programme of country environmental performance reviews including the review mission to Estonia held on 9-19 May 1995, in addition to the information provided in document CEP/R.6. The delegation of Estonia thanked

the representatives of the reviewing countries (Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany and Ukraine) and the secretariat for the efforts put into the review so far and the countries that provided financial assistance in cash or in kind for the review (Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom).

32. During the discussion several delegations mentioned the wish of their countries to be reviewed under the ECE review programme, namely Armenia, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, and Uzbekistan. The delegation of Ukraine reiterated its firm proposal to be the next country in line for a pilot ECE review. The delegation of the Russian Federation reconfirmed the interest of this country to be the subject of an ECE review in 1996-1997. The delegations of Poland and Slovakia informed the Committee of their readiness to provide experts for the next ECE pilot reviews.

33. Some delegations raised the issues of an ECE peer-review mechanism, criteria to select the countries to be reviewed, capacity-building progress in the secretariat and the transparency of the resource allocation process. The Director of the OECD Environment Directorate informed the Committee that the ECE secretariat would be expected to share on an equal basis the workload with OECD in the pilot OECD review of Belarus.

34. In the light of the discussion, the Committee:

(a) Took note of the progress made in the development of the initial ECE programme of environmental performance reviews, including the successful review mission to Estonia;

(b) Agreed on the importance of ensuring that the first ECE peer review (of Estonia) serve as a high-quality benchmark for future peer reviews and requested the Bureau to decide, in consultation with OECD and no later than 15 September 1995, on the nature of the Estonia peer review to be held in November 1995, following a workshop on the results of the OECD pilot review of Bulgaria organized in cooperation with OECD;

(c) Reconfirmed the earlier commitment of Lucerne that three pilot reviews would be conducted by OECD in cooperation with ECE, and agreed that ECE would assume responsibility on an equal basis for the planning and conduct of the third such review (of Belarus);

(d) Requested interested countries to provide voluntary contributions to support the ECE environmental performance review work;

(e) Invited its Bureau to consider, at its meeting in late summer 1995, the peer-review mechanism for ECE reviews, criteria for selecting countries to be reviewed, and other issues relevant to the ECE review programme;

(f) Agreed that the Committee's Bureau would decide at its next meeting on the selection of the next country to be reviewed by ECE.

D. Responsibility and liability

35. Mr. G. HAFNER (Austria), Chairman of the task force on responsibility and liability, introduced a report (CEP/R.10) prepared at the task force meeting convened on 21-22 March 1995 in Vienna (Austria), including preliminary draft guidelines on responsibility and liability regarding transboundary pollution.

36. Some delegations commented on specific issues raised in the report. The representative of UNEP offered the cooperation of this organization in the future work of the task force.

37. The Committee took note of the report of the task force (CEP/R.10) and agreed with the proposal for future work contained therein.

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

38. The Committee:

(a) Took note of documents CEP/R.7 and R.8 and the additional information provided by the secretariat on the progress made under the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

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

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

39. Written information, submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), was circulated among the delegations.

40. The Committee:

(a) Took note of the information provided by the other United Nations bodies and international organizations and institutions;

(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 third session of the Committee.

XI. PROGRAMME OF WORK

41. The Committee:

(a) Adopted the programme of work as contained in annex II to this report;

(b) Decided to continue to apply the composite scoring approach to priority ranking for the Committee's programme of work, and requested the secretariat, accordingly, to circulate among the delegations the questionnaire on the priority ranking of the programme of work adopted by the Committee at its second session, for completion by 14 July 1995 at the latest, and to issue the composite ranking established on the basis of replies received as an addendum to the report of the Committee's second session;

(c) Expressed its gratitude to those Governments which had hosted and/or supported meetings organized under the auspices of the Committee, or provided contributions earmarked for environmental activities to the ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition and to the ECE Trust Fund on Environmental Performance Reviews and "Environment for Europe", and invited Governments to make further contributions.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

42. A tentative schedule of meetings under the auspices of the Committee covering the period up to its third session is contained in annex III to this report.

43. In the light of Commission decision A (50), the Committee decided that the reports on its own sessions and on the sessions of its subsidiary bodies would henceforth be adopted at their next sessions.

XIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE THIRD SESSION

44. The Committee elected officers for its third session: Mr. I. TOKES (Hungary), Chairman; Mr. R. FORT (Norway), Mr. W. KAKEBEEKE (Netherlands), Mr. V. KOSTIN (Russian Federation), Mr. D. MOUNT (United States), Mrs. B. QUINCY (France), and Mr. O. VELEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairpersons.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION

45. Under this agenda item, some delegations voiced the need to put the programme of work higher on the Committee's agenda in future and to allocate more time to its discussion.

46. The Committee adopted the report of its second session on 31 May 1995.

Annex I

DECISION A (2) ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The Committee on Environmental Policy,

Bearing in mind Principles 11, 18 and 19 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, paragraph 19.49,

Taking into account the Lucerne Ministerial Declaration, in which the Ministerial Conference called on all UN/ECE member States and the European Community to consider ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, environmental conventions in the UN/ECE region, as soon as possible (para. 24).

Recalling decisions F (48), F (49) and G (50) in which the Economic Commission for Europe called upon all ECE member States and the European Community to consider, if they had not already done so, ratification of or accession, as appropriate, to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Recalling also decision B (5) in which the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems requested the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents to 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 (ECE/ENVWA/24/Add.1),

Stressing the necessity to improve the overall industrial safety in the ECE region in order to promote sustainable development and reduce the likelihood of industrial accidents and their adverse effects on the environment and human beings, including their transboundary effects,

Noting with appreciation the positive results already achieved under the activities within the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents pending its entry into force (ENVWA/WG.4/6),

Recommends that ECE Governments and the European Community should:

(a) Undertake appropriate measures/steps to speed up national and other procedures for ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and implement it to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force;

(b) Promote the establishment of points of contact for industrial accident notification and mutual assistance in the event of an industrial accident;

(c) Support the activities of the two UN/ECE Regional Coordinating Centres aimed at enhancing national capacity building to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents, in particular in countries in transition, and assist in attracting financial resources and resources in kind for their activities;

(d) Promote the networking of national centres dealing with industrial accidents, including the designation of associates involved in the activities of the two UN/ECE Regional Coordinating Centres;

(e) Report regularly on the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, including the submission of information on past industrial accidents;

(f) Facilitate the exchange of technology for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents, thereby actively assisting in promoting industrial development;

(g) Facilitate the identification of hazardous activities and the exchange of knowledge and experience on methodologies of risk assessment.

Annex II

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 to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (predecessor to the Committee) 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) on 23-25 October 1995.

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

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.1.2 Environmental Programme for Europe

Description: The Environmental Programme for Europe (EPE) will be further developed in close cooperation with and with the financial assistance of the Commission of the European Communities on the basis of the "Europe's Environment: The Dobris Assessment" report.

Work to be undertaken: The Senior Governmental Officials will address policy tools and mechanisms for inclusion in the EPE, following an outline agreed at their third session.

Duration: 1994-1995.

01.1.3 Environmental rights and obligations

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



01.2.3 Management of hazardous chemicals

Description: In the light of decision A (5) of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, 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 1996/1997 in cooperation with OECD, to review the progress made in the application of existing OECD systems and practices to the management of chemicals in ECE countries which are non-members of OECD. Workshops may be organized in the interim on specific subjects of interest to countries in transition.

Duration: 1995-1997.

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 Commission 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 sixth session, the Joint Working Group will consider: (a) the situation reports prepared by delegations of countries which have not yet been reviewed with the assistance of the secretariat; (b) draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by a group of rapporteurs on the basis of all reports prepared on this topic for consideration by the Joint Working Group and their updates, other relevant documentation and the outline in annex II to CEP/WG.2/2.

Duration: 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 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 sixth session, the Joint Working Group will: (a) exchange information on difficulties encountered in the use of economic instruments for environmental policies; (b) consider a report prepared by the secretariat on the use of economic instruments in countries in transition based on relevant information provided by delegations in response to the questionnaire on economic instruments.

Duration: 1995.

01.3.3 Impact of economic instruments for environmental policies on privatized industrial and agricultural enterprises

Description: The Joint Working Group will analyse the impact of the introduction of economic instruments for environmental policies on privatized industries and businesses, as well as on agriculture. Special emphasis will be given to the possibility of fine-tuning these instruments to integrate both economic and environmental concerns.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop will be organized on this issue. The Governments of the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Norway and Romania will explore the possibility of organizing this workshop in cooperation with OECD. Possibilities for cooperation in this undertaking with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations will also be explored. A report on this workshop will be submitted to the Joint Working Group for consideration at its sixth session.

Duration: 1995.

01.3.4 Interaction between privatization processes and the environment

Description: The Joint Working Group will analyse the approaches used by the ECE Governments to develop frameworks for allocating liability for past environmental damage and their impact on investment and the environment.

Work to be undertaken: On the basis of the results of the workshop on the interaction between privatization processes and the environment (Geneva, 23-24 January 1995) and other relevant documents, a group of experts will prepare the above-mentioned analysis as well as possible draft recommendations to be submitted to the Joint Working Group at its sixth session.

Duration: 1995.

01.3.5 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 sixth session the Joint Working Group will consider a report on recent developments in the pricing of energy resources and their impact on energy consumption and pollution abatement in countries in transition prepared by the secretariat on the basis of relevant information, including information on energy prices, provided by delegations.

Duration: 1995.

01.3.6 Responsibility and liability

Description: The Committee will examine the possibilities of providing guidance to countries on responsibility and liability regarding transboundary pollution.

Work to be undertaken: The task force led by Austria will continue to examine the ability of existing legal instruments to cope with responsibility and liability issues addressed in the ECE environmental conventions and will submit draft guidelines on responsibility and liability regarding transboundary pollution to the Committee at its third session.

Duration: 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 fifth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1995.

01.4.2 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, the Meeting of the Signatories will review ways and means 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 on EIA for countries in transition will be held in Italy in September or October 1995. The report of the workshop will be submitted by the delegation of Italy to the Meeting of the Signatories for consideration at its fifth meeting.

Duration: 1995.

01.4.3 Guidelines on EIA

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will analyse relevant national and international experience with guidelines on EIA in particular in a transboundary context.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a draft directory on national and international guidelines on EIA on the basis of information provided by delegations, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1995.

01.4.4 Database on EIA

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will maintain and update the ECE database on EIA with the aim of providing support to EIA policy makers, practitioners and organizations in implementing the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: A workshop will be held in Norway in June 1995 to review the ECE database on EIA with a view to drawing up practical recommendations for its further improvement and expansion, taking into account a report by the delegation of Canada on electronic networking of national centres on EIA.

Duration: 1995.

01.4.5 International centres on EIA

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will support the proposal by Germany and Poland to create international centres on EIA under the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: A group of designated experts will, at consultations hosted by Germany and Poland in autumn 1995, prepare a report on relevant aspects, such as the tasks and costs involved, tools and instruments for centres to assist future Parties, and will report to the Meeting of the Signatories at its fifth meeting.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.4.6 Format for notification

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will analyse possible formats for notification, in order to strengthen the notification procedure as stipulated in Article 3 of the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: The delegation of Canada will analyse possible notification formats on the basis of relevant information, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.4.7 International efforts to strengthen EIA

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will strengthen cooperation on and coordination of activities supporting the implementation of the Convention.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a report on international efforts to strengthen environmental impact assessment on the basis of information provided by delegations and international organizations, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.4.8 Methodological aspects

Description: The Meeting of the Signatories will further review specific methodological tools through the preparation and analysis of the practical application of specific methods and methodologies used to predict environmental impacts and assess their significance in a transboundary context.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will prepare a report on relevant national experience with specific methodologies and criteria to determine the significance of any adverse transboundary impact, taking into account document CEP/WG.3/R.6, on the basis of information provided by delegations, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Signatories.

Duration: 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 in the protection and rational use of inland waters, at both 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 (ENVWA/WP.3/21, annex II), as appropriate, for consideration by the Working Party at its ninth session.

Duration: 1995.

01.5.2 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from point sources

Description: The Working Party will compile information and prepare policy documents 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: The task force with France as lead country will revise the reports on prevention, control and reduction of water pollution from point sources (CEP/WP.1/R.2 and R.3) as well as the conclusions and draft recommendations on licensing waste-water discharges (CEP/WP.1/R.4) for consideration by the Working Party at its ninth session. Activities related to effluent monitoring strategies and procedures will be jointly undertaken with the task force on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (see programme element 01.5.4).

Duration: 1995.

01.5.3 Prevention, control and reduction of pollution from diffuse sources

Description: The Working Party will examine best environmental practices 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.

Work to be undertaken: The Seminar on the prevention and control of groundwater pollution from the storage of chemicals and from waste disposal will be held in Madrid (Spain) in September 1995. An ECE/FAO workshop on water pollution and protection in agricultural practice will be held in Zagreb (Croatia) in October 1995.

Duration: 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: As a first step, the task force with the Netherlands as lead country will draw up draft guidelines to ECE Governments on: (a) monitoring and assessment of watercourses; (b) early-warning systems; and (c) effluent monitoring, which will also provide advice on methods for the biological assessment of transboundary waters, systems of good laboratory practice and the accreditation of laboratories, for consideration by the Working Party at its ninth session. The task force will also draw up proposals for the implementation of these guidelines, and establish a work plan to draw up guidelines on monitoring and assessment of international lakes, monitoring and assessment of estuaries, and monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters. Activities related to effluent monitoring strategies and procedures will be jointly undertaken with the task force on the control of water pollution from point sources (see programme element 01.5.2).

Duration: 1994-1995.

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 shared.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat 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 ninth session.

Duration: 1993-1995.

#### 01.5.7 Sustainable water management

Description: The Working Party will examine practical approaches and instruments 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 regional ECE/UNEP workshop on Agenda 21, chapter 18, and the Convention with emphasis on countries in transition will be held in Ukraine in the second half of 1995.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.5.8 Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention

Description: Pursuant to the 1992 decision B (5) of the Senior Advisers and taking into account article 17 of the Convention, the Working Party on Water Problems will prepare the first meeting of the Parties.

Work to be undertaken: The Bureau of the Working Party, with the assistance of delegations from France, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands and any other interested delegations and the secretariat, will draw up a draft declaration for the first meeting of the Parties, the draft terms of reference for the

proposed working group on water management, a draft proposal on adequate financing mechanisms to implement the Convention, a preliminary draft agenda for the first meeting of the Parties, a draft work plan and any other documentation that may be deemed important, for consideration by the Working Party at its ninth session.

Duration: 1995-1996.

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 continue to strengthen cooperation among ECE countries by exchanging information on the implementation of the Convention by means of the Industrial Accident Manual, containing information on, inter alia, 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.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat will regularly update and revise the Manual on the basis of information provided by the delegations and the relevant international organizations and institutions.

Duration: 1995.

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 UN/ECE Accident Notification System (in accordance with article 17 of the Convention) will be fine-tuned on the basis of, inter alia, the results of simulation exercises. Related training and exercises will be carried out as part of the activities of the Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises.

Work to be undertaken: The third consultation on points of contact will be held in the second half of 1995 (venue to be decided). The secretariat will revise the UN/ECE Accident Notification System on the basis of comments provided by the delegations.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.6.3 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 continue to collect and evaluate information on past industrial accidents which had or could have had transboundary effects in the ECE region, on the basis of reports provided voluntarily by delegations using the UN/ECE Accident Evaluation Form (CEP/WG.4/R.12, annex I, appendix II). Delegations are also free to provide information on other industrial accidents. 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.

Duration: 1995.

#### 01.6.4 Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises

Description: As mandated by the Meeting of the Signatories, the Regional Coordinating Centre for Industrial Accident Training and Exercises will develop a strategy 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. The Centre will also serve as a clearing-house.

Work to be undertaken: This Centre will operate in accordance with the objectives and tasks set out in annex I to the report of the third meeting of the Signatories. In particular, it will maintain all organizational documents, including its terms of reference, financial arrangements and work-plan, and submit them to the Steering Group. It will also facilitate the establishment of a network of associates in ECE member countries, through the secretariat, to improve communication. The Centre will carry out a programme of work according to the framework agreed by the Meeting of the Signatories, which will be overseen by the Steering Group. This will include the preparation of a workshop on industrial accident emergency preparedness and response to be held in Poland in 1995, sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, with a special emphasis on the needs of countries in transition. The Centre will also prepare a strategy document for accident-related training and education. Further work will be undertaken on cooperation among points of contact and on simulation exercises. The Centre will issue a periodic newsletter setting out relevant developments, in coordination with a parallel activity by the Centre in Hungary. It will begin work on the development of an information clearing-house. The Centre will

promote the use of the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme of UNEP as an instrument to involve industry and establish cooperation at the local level. Some of the Centre's activities will be dependent on the provision of additional resources.

Duration: 1995.

01.6.5 Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents

Description: As mandated by the Meeting of the Signatories, the Regional Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Industrial Accidents will undertake projects, in accordance with their priorities, to provide guidance on available methodologies and procedures to identify and screen hazardous activities and to assess risk. In addition, work will be undertaken on, inter alia, improved internal safety policy; development and implementation of legislation; and the application of safety audits. The Centre will also serve as a clearing-house.

Work to be undertaken: This Centre will operate in accordance with the objectives and tasks set out in annex II to the report of the third meeting of the Signatories. In particular, it will prepare document CEP/WG.4/R.14 for circulation by the secretariat. In addition, it will maintain all organizational documents, including its terms of reference, financial arrangements and work-plan, and submit them to the Steering Group. The Centre will also facilitate the establishment of a network of associates in ECE member countries, through the secretariat, to improve communication. The Centre will finalize and circulate a report of the 1994 workshop, sponsored by Germany, on the identification and screening of hazardous activities. A further workshop is planned for 1995, to address hazardous identification and risk assessment, including guidance on identifying hazardous activities in accordance with article 18 (para. 6), taking into account work being undertaken by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other organizations. The Government of Slovenia will work with the Centre on guidance related to appropriate legislation to meet the requirements of the Convention. The Centre will issue a periodic newsletter describing relevant developments, in coordination with a parallel activity by the Centre in Poland. The Centre will promote the use of the APELL programme of UNEP as an instrument to involve industry and establish cooperation at the local level. Some of the Centre's activities will be dependent on the provision of additional resources.

Duration: 1995.

01.6.6 Hazardous substances for the purposes of defining 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.

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 fifth meeting of the Signatories. A meeting will be convened in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Meeting of the Signatories when appropriate.

Duration: 1995.

01.6.7 Preparation of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

Description: The Convention may come into force as early as 1996. According to article 18, paragraph 1, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention. Consequently, the fifth meeting of the Signatories to the Convention, to be convened in the beginning of 1996, may need to address preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Work to be undertaken: The bureau together with interested delegations and the secretariat will prepare a document for discussion at the fifth meeting of the Signatories regarding issues for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.

Duration: 1995-1996.

Annex III

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

31 July-4 August 1995 Geneva	Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (sixth session)
11-12 September 1995	Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (seventh session)
11-15 September 1995 Madrid (Spain)	Seminar on the prevention and control of groundwater pollution from the storage of chemicals and from waste disposal
19-20 October 1995 Sofia (Bulgaria)	Senior Governmental Officials "Environment for Europe" (eighth session)
28-29 November 1995 Geneva	Committee on Environmental Policy (special session)
23-24 January 1996 Geneva	Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics
31 January-2 February 1996 Geneva	Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (fifth meeting)
4-8 March 1996 Geneva	Working Party on Water Problems (ninth session)
18-21 March 1996 Geneva	Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (fifth meeting)
20-23 May 1996 Geneva	Committee on Environmental Policy (third session)
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21-23 June 1995 Norway	Workshop on database on EIA
21-24 June 1995 Warsaw (Poland)	Task force on monitoring and assessment (second meeting)
18-20 September 1995 Germany (Subject to confirmation)	Workshop on the identification of hazardous activities
Autumn 1995 Vienna (Austria)	Task force on responsibility and liability

Autumn 1995 Germany and Poland	Consultations hosted by Germany and Poland on international centres on EIA
September-October 1995 Italy	Workshop on EIA for countries in transition
2-3 October 1995 Helsinki (Finland) (Subject to confirmation)	Consultation on points of contact (Industrial Accidents Convention)
9-11 October 1995 Poland	Training courses on the implementation of environmental conventions in the chemical industry
16-18 October 1995 Sophia Antipolis (France)	Task force on the control of water pollution from point sources (fourth meeting)
24-27 October 1995 Zagreb (Croatia)	ECE/FAO workshop on water pollution and protection in agriculture
15-17 November 1995 Lalystad (Netherlands)	Task force on monitoring and assessment (third meeting)
27 November 1995	ECE/OECD workshop on the results of the pilot OECD environmental performance review of Bulgaria
Late 1995 Greece	Task force on legal and administrative aspects of the Water Convention
Late 1995 Kiev (Ukraine)	ECE/UNEP workshop on Agenda 21, chapter 18, and the Water Convention with emphasis on countries in transition
Late 1995/early 1996 Kiev (Ukraine)	Workshop on best available waste-water treatment technology
23-24 January 1996 Geneva	Workshop on the impact of economic instruments for environmental policies on privatized industrial and agricultural enterprises
29-30 January 1996 Switzerland	Workshop on industrial safety (Industrial Accidents Convention)

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