



**Economic and Social
Council**

Dist.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/2
EUR/08/5068055/2
12 February 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT,
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Steering Committee on the Transport, Health and
Environment Pan-European Programme

Sixth session
Geneva, 28–29 April 2008
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE STEERING
COMMITTEE AND OF THE MEETING OF ITS BUREAU**

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU

Report by the secretariat

1. This report summarizes the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), held on December 10 and 11 2007 in Rome.
2. Mr. F. André (Belgium) chaired the meeting. It was attended by the following Bureau members: Mr. R. Thaler (Austria), Ms. H. Mileva (Bulgaria), Mr. J. Volf (Czech Republic), Ms. N. Tkhilava (Georgia), Mr. M. Fruianu (Netherlands), Mr. V. Donchenko, (Russian Federation), Mr. J. Jániga (Slovakia), Ms. U. Ulrich-Vögtlin (Switzerland), Mr. N. Dotchin (United Kingdom) and Mr. C. Ashley (United States).
3. THE PEP secretariat was represented by Mr. M. Magold, Mr. M. Pesut and Ms. B. Wachs (UNECE), and by Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier and Ms. Francesca Racioppi (WHO).

I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF MEETING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Bureau noted that the main objectives of the meeting were: (a) to provide advice on the preparations for the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health; (b) to give input on the draft documents for the sixth session of the Steering Committee; and (c) to review progress made in the implementation of the work programme of THE PEP.

5. The Bureau thanked Mr. J. Cekota (UNECE, Transport Division) for his assistance to THE PEP secretariat and his valuable contribution to the draft documents, and welcomed Mr. Pesut, who would represent the Transport Division from 1 January 2008.

II. THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE

6. The Bureau discussed preparations for the sixth session of the Steering Committee, scheduled to be held on 28 and 29 April 2008 at WHO headquarters in Geneva, and adopted its provisional agenda (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/1-EUR/08/5068055/1). The meeting would be followed by a Bureau meeting on 30 April 2008, which would focus on further preparations for the High-level Meeting.

A. Transport, health and environment: Trends and developments in the UNECE–WHO Pan-European Region (1997–2007)

7. The Bureau thanked the consultants Ms. L. Grenier and Mr. N. Cavill for their valuable work thus far, gave concrete feedback on the draft report and provided direction for its finalization. The Bureau reiterated that the review reflected trends and developments over the past 10 years, while the assessment report was focused on the achievements of THE PEP, its strengths and weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement (see below).

8. An executive summary of the review would be submitted as an official document to the Steering Committee (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/4-EUR/08/5068055/4). The full review report would be made available to the meeting in English only. The Steering Committee would be requested to provide feedback during the session. The secretariat would thereafter finalize the publication for the High-level Meeting.

B. Assessment Report and the future of THE PEP

9. The Bureau took note of the draft assessment report and gave concrete feedback. It entrusted the secretariat with the report's finalization for submission to the Steering Committee as an official document (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/3-EUR/08/5068055/3). A report summarizing the main conclusions of the review report and the recommendations of the assessment report would be prepared following the session, for submission to the High-level Meeting.

10. The Bureau reiterated the importance of the assessment report in reflecting the experiences of Member States and in providing recommendations for the way forward for THE

PEP. While THE PEP had produced significant tools, methods and concepts in its priority areas, the next phase should be targeted toward practical implementation at national level, including capacity-building in EECCA and SEE and as a basis for developing the draft declaration.

C. Elements for a draft declaration

11. The Bureau considered elements for a draft declaration prepared by the secretariat and reiterated that it should be a political document, intended to attract high-level participation from all three sectors. It should set out the achievements and challenges over the past five years and provide the strategic direction for THE PEP for the next five years.

12. The Bureau suggested that the declaration include three parts, as follows:

- (a) The main issues and challenges, including the background, mandate and link with other international processes;
- (b) The main achievements of THE PEP in the key priority areas;
- (c) Future commitments.

13. A separate document or annex would cover monitoring and implementation of commitments.

14. The Bureau agreed to meet on 14 and 15 February 2008 in Brussels (back-to-back with a joint meeting with the European Commission) to agree on a draft of the declaration for submission to the Steering Committee.

15. A possible timetable for the eventual adoption of the declaration was proposed as follows:

- February 2008: (Brussels) Bureau meeting to agree on a first draft declaration to be submitted to the Steering Committee in April;
- April 2008: (Geneva) Steering Committee session: discussion and amendments to the first draft; establishment of a drafting group;
- June 2008: Meeting of the drafting group: revision of the draft declaration;
- September 2008: Possible meeting of the drafting group;
- November 2008: Final meeting of the drafting group, one day before the High-level Meeting.

D. Additional documents: brochure on policy integration, work programme and financial resources

16. The Bureau discussed the above-mentioned documents and entrusted the secretariat with their finalization in time for submission to the Steering Committee.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

17. The Bureau held preliminary discussions on the planning and organization of the High-level Meeting, re-scheduled to be held on 3 and 4 November 2008 in Geneva. Although it was considered premature to agree a provisional programme at this stage, the Bureau agreed to continue its discussions on the planning for the Third High-level Meeting during its meeting in Brussels. The secretariat would provide further information on the organization of the Meeting for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

18. The Netherlands offered to examine the possibility of hosting the High-level Meeting, and would report to the Bureau at its ad hoc session in February in Brussels.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Status report on THE PEP Clearing House

19. The secretariat presented updated information on THE PEP Clearing House and its use. It noted that while all text sections were available in Russian, only 6 per cent of documents were available in Russian, indicating that language barriers were significant. The Bureau agreed that the Steering Committee would need to consider: (a) whether it was satisfied with the present running of the Clearing House; (b) how to ensure the sustained operation in the years to come; and (c) how to increase the active participation by countries and intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations in future, particularly from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

B. Organization of a subregional workshop on sustainable urban transport

20. The Bureau discussed several possibilities for the organization of a subregional workshop on sustainable urban transport, intended to highlight issues relating to EECCA and SEE for the High-level Meeting. Bulgaria offered to host a workshop in May 2008, possibly reflecting CEHAPE¹ regional priority goal 2 on reducing children's morbidity, mortality and obesity, in either Varna or Sofia, pending agreement by the Ministry of Health of Bulgaria. The Steering Committee might wish to discuss the synergies between this topic and sustainable urban transport in developing the workshop content.

21. In addition, Moldova confirmed its interest in hosting a workshop in June 2008, possibly in cooperation with Bulgaria. The secretariat would confirm with Bulgaria and Moldova their intentions regarding the hosting of subregional workshops in 2008, and report to the Bureau at its ad hoc session in Brussels in February.

C. Financial contributions to THE PEP Trust Fund

¹ Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe.

22. The Bureau was informed that, since its last meeting, Austria had contributed €30,000 to support projects on environment and health promoting mobility; Switzerland had contributed 10,000 CHF for the organization of a side-event to the subregional workshop cited above, which would focus on urban air pollution and its health and environmental effects; and the United Kingdom had contributed £30,000 (non-earmarked funds) to THE PEP Trust Fund. The Bureau thanked Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions.

V. NEXT MEETING

23. An ad-hoc meeting of the Bureau will take place on 14 and 15 February in Brussels to agree on a draft declaration and continue planning the Third High-level Meeting. The next official meeting of the Bureau will take place on 30 April 2008, following the sixth session of the Steering Committee, at WHO headquarters in Geneva.
