

Annex I

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK SINCE THE SEVENTH SESSION

PROGRAMME ELEMENT		PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION
Number	Title	
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1: REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS		
1.1	Follow-up and support to the regional environmental conventions	A round-table discussion was held within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee. A background paper facilitated the discussions. A meeting between representatives of the Bureaux of the Committee and the governing bodies of the UNECE environmental conventions regarding public participation took place on 25 June 2001.
1.2	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	Preparations are under way for the first meeting of the Parties in the expectation that it will take place in 2002. An intergovernmental preparatory meeting is scheduled for 28-30 November 2001 to review the preparations. The Working Group on Compliance and Rules of Procedure and the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms are preparing draft decisions for the Meeting of the Parties on their respective topics. The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) is preparing a draft instrument on PRTRs with a view to having a text ready for adoption at the Kiev Ministerial Conference in May 2003. The Task Force on Electronic Tools held a regional workshop on furthering the use of electronic tools in the implementation of the Convention, hosted by the Government of Norway (Arendal, 8-9 March 2001). A regional workshop on access to justice is planned under the auspices of the Task Force on Access to Justice (Estonia, 17-19 September 2001). A regional workshop on public participation in the context of policies, programmes, plans and legislation was held to provide input to the negotiation of a new UNECE protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo Convention (Szentendre, 23-24 November 2000). A number of activities aimed at promoting the effective implementation of the Convention have been undertaken, including distribution of the Implementation Guide on the Convention and (jointly with UNEP and the Regional Environmental Center

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		(REC)-Caucasus) the organization of a workshop for the South Caucasus countries (Tbilisi, 11-13 December 2000). Plans for further multi-stakeholder subregional workshops promoting implementation of the Convention are being developed.
1.3	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	<p>The Convention entered into force on 19 April 2000. Currently there are 22 Parties. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties took place in Brussels on 22-24 November 2000. It accepted the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System and approved the cooperation between UNECE and the European Commission regarding past industrial accidents. It agreed on the procedures for reporting on implementation and set up a Working Group on Implementation. It also agreed on further work on the prevention of accidental water pollution together with the Water Convention.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made, jointly with the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to convene a special session of both governing bodies in Geneva on 2-3 July 2001 to decide on further work to draw up an appropriate regime, including a legally binding instrument, in the UNECE region on civil liability for damage caused by hazardous activities within the scope of both Conventions (see also item 1.5 below).</p>
1.4	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	The eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention took place in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2000 (ECE/EB.AIR/71). The Executive Body received the draft review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement and requested publication of an executive summary. It received reports from its Implementation Committee and made decisions regarding compliance by Slovenia with the 1994 Oslo Protocol and by Parties with their reporting obligations.

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		<p>The Executive Body received reports from its three subsidiary bodies, including a review of protocols by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, reports on scientific progress by the Working Group on Effects, and a proposed strategy from the EMEP Steering Body. The Executive Body decided to initiate negotiations on a possible funding instrument for its scientific activities not funded under the EMEP Protocol, and took a decision on funding requirements for 2001 with an associated request for contributions from Parties. It also established an expert group to consider preparation of a document on a communication strategy for the Convention.</p>
1.5	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	<p>The second meeting of the Parties took place in The Hague, Netherlands on 23-25 March 2000. The Parties established four Working Groups on legal aspects, water management, monitoring, and water and health, and made preparations for the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, held in Budapest on 2-3 November 2000 (see documents ECE/MP.WAT/5 and MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/2).</p> <p>Arrangements have been made, jointly with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, to convene a special session of both governing bodies in Geneva on 2-3 July 2001 to decide on further work to draw up an appropriate regime, including a legally binding instrument, in the UNECE region on civil liability for damage caused by hazardous activities within the scope of both Conventions (see item 1.3 above).</p>
1.6	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	<p>The Convention now has 37 Parties. At their second meeting (Sofia, 26 to 27 February 2001), the Parties took several policy decisions, adopted their work plan and the Sofia Ministerial Declaration. The Parties established the Implementation Committee, which will review compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The Parties also decided to start negotiations on a protocol on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). An ad hoc Working Group was established for this purpose and its first meeting was held from 14 to 16 May 2001. The Parties will continue to work on the Guidelines on Public</p>

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		Participation in a Transboundary Context and by doing so ensure that the relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention will be used in the practical application of the Espoo Convention.
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS		
2.1	The ECE environmental performance review programme	New review missions have been carried out in Romania (October 2000 and update in March 2001), Uzbekistan (March 2001) and Estonia (second review, April 2001). A pre-mission took place in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in February 2001 to determine the scope and structure of the review, currently scheduled for October 2001. A pre-mission is planned for Albania, in July 2001. Requests for EPRs have been received from Georgia and Yugoslavia.
2.2	Further development of EPR methods and organizational matters	<p>The EPR Expert Group met on 8-9 March 2001, in Geneva, to review the EPR Programme, recommend improved ways of implementing the Programme, and prepare its report to the Committee. The current mandate of the Expert Group expires this year. The report of the Expert Group is available.</p> <p>On the basis of its experience, broad consultations and existing resources, the Expert Group has made specific recommendations concerning the organization of the Peer Review, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That, for each country reviewed, an expert review take place during a meeting of the EPR Expert Group immediately prior to the annual session of the Committee. Should resources permit, the Expert Group proposes that the expert review be organized up to two to three months prior to the meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy in order to provide the Committee with final drafts of the reviews;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Expert Group invite experts from other interested countries to participate in these reviews; • That prior to the Peer Review, the secretariat, with the support of the Expert Group, prepare a paper that identifies significant policy issues for discussion within the Committee and interaction with the reviewed countries. Issues may be common to all reviewed countries or distinct for each; • That, based on the conclusions drawn from the expert review, the Expert Group appoint a rapporteur for each review to lead the discussion in the Peer Review during the Committee's session; • That the Committee organize a round table or panel, including high-level representatives from both the reviewed and reviewing countries; • That the Committee draw its conclusions based on the round table and the results of the expert review and adopt its recommendations accordingly.
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3: "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" PROCESS/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE		
3.1	Environmental monitoring	The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring organized a consultation to better prepare the first session of the Working Group. Country experts and representatives of international organizations and institutions attended the consultation, which took place in Obninsk, Russian Federation, in January 2001. The Working Group, at its first session, will consider a series of proposals for the effective implementation of its terms of reference and work plan.
3.2	Energy and the environment	The Committee on Sustainable Energy in November 2000 agreed to establish a task force on environment and energy together with the Committee on Environmental Policy to develop guidelines for decision-makers on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable energy development. In pursuance of this decision, the Energy and Environment Divisions are preparing proposals for a programme and terms of reference for a joint task force, for consideration at a consultation to be held on 29-30 November 2001 in Prague at the invitation of the Czech Republic.

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3.3	Compliance and enforcement	The Committee mandated an open-ended task force to work on guidelines on environmental compliance and enforcement in association with preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 22 June 2001.
3.4	Follow-up to the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol	A questionnaire that was circulated among the Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in January 2000 to provide information for the 2000 review on strategies and policies included reporting on progress in making unleaded petrol available and in phasing out the use of leaded petrol for on-road vehicles. Responses were reported to the Executive Body for the Convention at its eighteenth session in December 2000 in a draft report (EB.AIR/2000/1).
3.5	Local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns	Fourteen draft discussion papers and city case studies were prepared for the workshop scheduled to take place in spring 2002 in Helsinki.
3.6	Preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference	<p>The first meeting of the ad hoc Working Group of Senior Officials met on 29 September 2000, in Geneva, and, inter alia, elected its Executive Committee. Members include: from western Europe: Denmark, Italy and Norway; from central and eastern Europe: Bulgaria and Poland; and from newly independent States: Georgia and Ukraine, represented by the Chair of the Working Group.</p> <p>The Executive Committee held its first meeting also on 29 September, its second meeting in Kiev on 25 January 2001, and its third in Geneva on 2 May 2001. Reports of these meetings are available.</p>

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		<p>At its second meeting, the Executive Committee was informed by the Chair that, subsequent to a decision taken at the first meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials, Ukraine's Minister of Environment had written to the Ministers of Environment of all other States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, to ascertain their views on the most appropriate dates for the fifth Ministerial Conference, particularly in view of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Based on this exchange of letters and further consultations to reschedule the fifth Ministerial Conference to 21-23 May 2003, in Kiev, the Executive Committee decided to propose the new dates to the Working Group of Senior Officials at its second meeting.</p>
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4: CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION		
4.1	Transport, environment and health/ Transport and the environment	<p>As a follow-up to the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health, adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (London, 16 -18 June 1999), the secretariats of UNECE and of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) convened a High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 4 May 2001) to decide upon the further steps needed to achieve transport that is sustainable for health and the environment. As a basis for the decision-making, the High-level Meeting considered a Synthesis Report; Overview of Instruments Relevant to Transport, Environment and Health and Recommendations for Further Steps (ECE/AC.21/2001/1 - EUR/00/5026094/1), jointly prepared by the two secretariats, recommending in particular to start negotiations on a new international legal instrument, viz. a framework convention on transport, environment and health. Unable to reach agreement on this point, the High-level Meeting requested that further preparatory work be carried out within the coming year by a tripartite task force to be established within the framework of the London and Vienna follow-up processes.</p>

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		<p>The High-level Meeting endorsed further the recommendation to rationalize and to streamline the Vienna and London follow-up processes as laid out in the Conference Room Paper of 25 April 2001 prepared by the two secretariats.</p> <p>It requested finally that a second high-level meeting be convened in June/July 2002 to take the final decisions on the recommendations submitted to it.</p> <p>At its fourth session (6 June 2001), the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment endorsed terms of reference for the Joint UNECE-WHO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport, Environment and Health, prepared by the UNECE and WHO/EURO secretariats to implement the decisions of the High-level Meeting, and submitted them for approval to the London Charter Steering Group. The Co-Chairs of the Joint Meeting, the Chair of the Steering Group together with the UNECE and WHO secretariats were entrusted with preparing a consolidated version of the terms of reference, to which final approval was given by the governing bodies of the two processes. (The final version of the terms of reference is annexed to the report of the fourth session of the Joint Meeting (JMTE/2001/5.)</p> <p>The tripartite expert group was established at least until the second high-level meeting on transport, environment and health by enlarging the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment, set up at the third session of the Joint Meeting, to include health experts. It is mandated to prepare detailed proposals for a second high-level meeting on the rationalization of the London and Vienna processes and to act as a task force to carry out further preparatory work to facilitate a decision on whether to start negotiations on a framework convention on transport, environment and health.</p> <p>The Joint Meeting decided further that the second high-level meeting should endorse the Vienna mid-term review of the Programme of Joint Action scheduled for 2002.</p>

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4.2	Environment and health	<p>The third and fourth EEHC meetings were held in Dublin (Ireland) and Cortona (Italy) in November 2000 and June 2001, respectively. Information was provided on ongoing work on environment and health in other international forums and progress reports were presented on the implementation of the London Conference. The possibility to develop a communication strategy was considered and to that end it was decided to establish a steering group. Further discussions took place on possible new topics for the next ministerial meeting on environment and health to be held in Budapest in 2004.</p>
OTHER ACTIVITIES		
	Regional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10)	<p>In response to decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit, a draft assessment report of progress in the region since 1992 has been prepared jointly by UNECE, UNEP and UNDP-Bratislava and with inputs from other experts.</p> <p>Three meetings are being organized to discuss the assessment report and identify future priorities for action in the region and at the global level. The first meeting was an expanded meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy's Bureau, which took place on 3 May 2001. The second meeting is open to all States members of UNECE and is scheduled for 12 and the morning of 13 July 2001, in Geneva. The third meeting is a special session of the Commission and will be convened at ministerial level. The dates for this meeting are 24 and the morning of 25 September 2001, in Geneva.</p>
	Activities of the Regional Adviser	<p>The activities of the Regional Adviser focused on the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance at the subregional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs): Project - "Rational and efficient use of energy and water resources". Based on a decision by the General Assembly, the UNDF is providing US\$ 1.7 million for the project in the period 2000-2002. The emphasis is on regional

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		<p>strategy development. A meeting of water-related donors was organized in Geneva in September 2000. Regional workshops were held in Bishkek in November 2000 and June 2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stability Pact for South East Europe Regional Environment Reconstruction Programme (REReP). ECE is initiating/managing three projects (water-related environmental protection in the Adriatic-Ionian region; financing of environmental projects in small municipalities; implementation of ECE environmental conventions). The Adriatic-Ionian project received support during the Ancona Conference in May 2000. Several donors expressed interest. - Protection and management of transboundary groundwaters in the Cetina catchment area shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia: a workshop resulted in a project proposal submitted for financing to the Global Environment Fund (GEF). Lack of GEF focal point for Bosnia and Herzegovina is formal obstacle to obtaining GEF financing. <p>2. Establishment of a legal advisory service, in particular on the setting-up of joint bodies for transboundary waters, functioning as a network of experts identified/provided by member States.</p>