



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 29–31 March 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 March 2011

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.

A. High-level segment

2. Economic integration in the ECE region: developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis.
3. The role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the ECE region:
 - (a) Transport and trade infrastructure:
 - (i) transport networks across the ECE region and their financing;
 - (ii) transport regulation and standards, including cross-border procedures;
 - (iii) trade facilitation standards;
 - (iv) sustainability of transport development.

¹ All delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Internet website www.unece.org and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat, *at the latest two weeks prior to the session*, either by fax (+41 (0)22 917 0566) or by e-mail (info.ece@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the ECE secretariat by telephone at +41 (0)22 917 1316.

- (b) Energy cooperation:
 - (i) improving energy networks;
 - (ii) energy efficiency;
 - (iii) diversification of energy sources.

B. General segment

4. New directions and initiatives in the ECE programme of work.
5. Issues calling for decision by the Commission.
6. Report on activities of the Executive Committee.
7. Election of officers.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the main conclusions and decisions.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Documentation: E/ECE/1449

The Commission will adopt its agenda.

A. High-level segment

2. Economic integration in the ECE region: developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis

Documentation: E/ECE/1455

The Work Plan on ECE Reform states that the Commission provides for a policy dialogue at a high level on the economic developments affecting the region. Debate under this item will focus on developments and challenges facing the region in terms of increasing economic integration and improving the economic competitiveness of the region especially in light of the economic crisis.

3. The role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the ECE region

Documentation: Issues notes for topics (a) and (b) below will be made available as informal documents

(a) Transport and trade infrastructure

Regional transport infrastructure constitutes a pillar of regional integration with its impact on trade flows between countries and subregions all over the ECE region. Its development can therefore contribute to mitigating the economic crisis and steering the economies of the region towards a sustainable and environment-friendly path of trade and economic growth.

The session will consider: (i) transport networks across the ECE region and their financing, including through PPPs; (ii) transport regulation and standards, including cross-border procedures; (iii) trade facilitation standards: simplification and harmonization of trade procedures along the supply chain; (iv) sustainability of transport development. It will also discuss how these issues have an impact on regional integration. Selected activities carried out by ECE in the relevant areas will be highlighted, for example, Trans-European and Euro-Asian links; legal instruments on transport infrastructure, multi-modal transport and border-crossing; trade facilitation standards and recommendations; climate change adaptation and mitigation in transport.

(b) Energy cooperation

The energy sector is clearly at the interface of economic and environmental sustainability. In this perspective, the session will consider three issues of energy cooperation that also contribute to broader energy security and greening of the economy: (i) improving energy networks throughout the ECE region and cooperation between producing and consuming countries; (ii) increasing energy efficiency as an important and uncontested way to reduce CO₂ emissions and regional cooperation, particularly by minimizing energy waste and exchanging good practices for fostering energy efficiency investments, including energy efficiency in housing; (iii) diversification of energy sources through increased use of renewable energy and boosting innovation for competitive new technologies in this sector. Selected activities carried out by ECE in the relevant areas will be highlighted, for example, interconnection of energy networks, in particular, for electricity; financing energy efficiency and renewable energy for climate change mitigation.

B. General segment

4. New directions and initiatives in the ECE programme of work

Documentation: E/ECE/1456, E/ECE/1457, E/ECE/1458, E/ECE/1459

Under this item, member States will be informed of new areas of work that are relatively new or have been recently launched in ECE under the guidance of its respective Sectoral Committees, for example: (a) Innovation performance review; (b) New developments in the Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia; (c) Global road safety; (d) Inland water transport; (e) International Year of Forests and sustainable forest management; (f) Housing; (g) Environment for Europe Conference in Astana; (h) Environment and Health process; (i) Measuring sustainable development

The Commission is invited to provide its comments, advice and guidance on these new directions and initiatives.

5. Issues calling for decision by the Commission

Documentation: E/ECE/1460

The Commission will be asked to approve the holding of the ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in December 2011.

In accordance with the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), the Commission at its 2009 session reviewed the reform of ECE. At that session, the Commission decided to postpone the review of the effects of the biennialization of the Commission sessions until its sixty-fourth session in 2011. The Commission is therefore invited to decide on maintaining the frequency of its sessions at 2-year intervals.

6. Report on activities of the Executive Committee

Documentation: E/ECE/1461

Following the ECE reform, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) was established in 2006 to act as the governing body of ECE during the intersessional period of the Commission. Member States will be provided with a report of the activities of EXCOM and they are invited to provide their views and comments on the functioning of EXCOM and any possible adjustments for the future.

7. Election of officers

Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission states: “The Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission will also serve as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Committee for the period of the biennium.” Accordingly, under this item, elections for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for a period of two years will be held.

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the main conclusions and decisions

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
Tuesday, 29 March 2011	
10:00–10:30	Opening and adoption of the agenda Opening remarks by the Chairperson Opening remarks by Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary
High-level segment	
10:30–13:00	Item 2: Economic integration in the ECE region: developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis
13:00–15:00	Lunch break
15:00–18:00	Item 3: The role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the ECE region
18:15	Reception
Wednesday, 30 March 2011	
High-level segment (continued)	
10:00–13:00	Item 3 (continued): The role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the ECE region
General segment	
15:00–17:00	Item 4: New directions and initiatives in the ECE programme of work
17:00–17:30	Item 5: Issues calling for decision by the Commission
17:30–18:00	Item 6: Report on activities of the Executive Committee
Thursday, 31 March 2011	
10:00–10:30	Item 7: Election of officers Item 8: Other business Meeting suspension to finalize the conclusions and decisions
12:30–13:00	Item 9: Adoption of the main conclusions and decisions