



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CEP/74

8 January 2001

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION

Summary

The Committee on Environmental Policy reviewed, updated and prioritized its programme of work. It discussed its possible substantive input to the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”. The Committee agreed to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to prepare a legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers. It welcomed a recommendation to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to start the preparation of a protocol to the Convention on strategic environmental assessment. The Committee also expressed support for the initiative to launch the negotiation of a joint protocol on civil liability to the Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. An ad hoc working group on environmental monitoring was established and its terms of reference and work plan adopted. The Committee established a task force to draft guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of environmental legislation. The Committee also reviewed the environmental performance of Armenia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan and adopted the recommendations for strengthening environmental policy and management in these countries. A round-table discussion on supporting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements was held within the framework of the session.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	1-5
I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	6
II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE SIXTH SESSION.....	7
III. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF KYRGYZSTAN	8
IV. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN	9
V. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF BULGARIA	10
VI. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF ARMENIA	11
VII. COOPERATION WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (EPR) PROGRAMME.....	12-13
VIII. ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON SUPPORTING THE ECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS	14-15
IX. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE.....	16-18
X. NEW OR ONGOING ACTIVITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION.....	19-28
A. Strategic environmental assessment	19-20
B. Transport, environment and health.....	21-22
C. Transport and the environment	23-24
D. Environmental monitoring.	25-28
XI. OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIZATION	29-45
A. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	29-30
B. Other ECE multilateral environmental agreements	31-32
C. “Environment for Europe” process	33-41
D. Environment and health	42
E. Activities of the regional adviser	43-44
F. Prioritization of elements in the programme of work.....	45

XII.	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECE TRUST FUNDS	46-47
XIII.	OTHER BUSINESS	48-51
XIV.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION	52
XV.	CLOSING OF THE SEVENTH SESSION	53-54

Annexes

- I. Long-term programme of work (2000-2002)
- II. Supporting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements
- III. Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group on
Environmental Monitoring
- IV. Criteria for financial support

Introduction

1. The seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy took place in Geneva from 25 to 28 September 2000. Mr. L. Bjørnskov (Denmark) chaired the meeting.
2. It was attended by delegates from 40 ECE member countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Uzbekistan.
3. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community.
4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) attended.
5. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were represented: European ECO Forum, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and Terra Environmental Policy Centre.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document ECE/CEP/73.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE SIXTH SESSION

7. The Committee adopted the report on its sixth session, which had taken place in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 1999, as contained in document ECE/CEP/69.

III. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (EPR) OF KYRGYZSTAN

8. The Committee amended and approved the EPR recommendations made to Kyrgyzstan. The final recommendations are included in ECE/CEP/74/Add.1, Part 1.

IV. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN

9. The Committee amended and approved the EPR recommendations made to Kazakhstan. The final recommendations are included in ECE/CEP/74/Add.1, Part 2.

V. PEER REVIEW OF THE SECOND REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF BULGARIA

10. The Committee amended and approved the EPR recommendations made to Bulgaria. The final recommendations are included in ECE/CEP/74/Add.1, Part 3.

VI. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF ARMENIA

11. The Committee amended and approved the EPR recommendations made to Armenia. The final recommendations are included in ECE/CEP/74/Add.1, Part 4.

VII. COOPERATION WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROGRAMME

12. The Committee discussed the Environmental Performance Review programme and its follow-up activities, and in particular the initiatives taken so far to associate the private sector with the EPR programme. It closely examined how its relations with the business community, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), could be further developed to their mutual benefit. To this end, the Committee requested the secretariat, with the guidance and advice of the EPR Expert Group, to prepare a procedural proposal for the association of the business community, focusing on experts and consultant companies experienced with SMEs, with the EPR process, for consideration by the Committee at its eighth session. The procedures involving SMEs should be transparent, non-discriminatory and consistent with the guidelines currently

being developed by the Economic Commission for Europe for association with the business community and take into consideration the comments and proposals by countries included in report CEP/2000/4. It was also suggested that a chapter on SMEs and environment could be included in the EPR reports.

13. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Chairman of the EPR Expert Group about the candidate countries proposed to be included in the EPR programme. The Committee decided to carry out a comprehensive review in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and a reduced review in Estonia. The reviews of Romania and Uzbekistan are in progress.

VIII. ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON SUPPORTING THE ECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

14. In accordance with a decision of the Committee taken at its sixth session, a round-table discussion on supporting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements was held. It was chaired by Mr. L. Bjørnskov and attended by representatives of the Bureaux of the governing bodies of the five ECE environmental conventions:

- (a) The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
- (b) The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention);
- (c) The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention);
- (d) The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention);
- (e) The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

A consultant to the secretariat presented his report on the subject as a basis for the discussion (CEP/2000/1). A summary of the round-table discussion is contained in annex II to this report.

15. The Committee:

- (a) Welcomed the discussion paper on interlinkages between ECE multilateral environmental agreements (CEP/2000/1) and the initiative of organizing the round table as a starting point for effective and continuous cooperation between the various conventions' governing bodies;
- (b) Invited the conventions' governing bodies to investigate the possible synergies and areas of cooperation between the instruments as well as to identify separate or specific features of the different legal texts;
- (c) Invited the secretariat in cooperation with the competent authorities responsible for the different agreements at the national level to work together and to identify areas of possible cooperation to ensure synergies and consistency between different instruments;
- (d) Recommended the establishment of a joint working group between the conventions' bodies to look at areas of common interests;

(e) Decided to consider the output of the work undertaken by this joint group at its next session.

IX. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

16. The Executive Secretary of ECE, Mrs. D. Hübner, informed the Committee about the outcome of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission. She underlined the importance that the Commission attached to the role of the Committee in developing more effective sustainable development policies and its work towards improving Europe's environment. Referring to Rio+10 and the next Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev, she stressed that the Committee should play an important role in their substantive preparations.

17. The Director of the ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division, Mr. K. Bärlund, highlighted issues of importance to the Committee raised at the recent session of the Commission. He drew special attention to the cross-sectoral concerns and in particular the cooperation between transport, environment and health, as well as energy and environment.

18. The Committee stressed the importance of the ECE contribution to the preparations for the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+10) (see CEP/2000/2). In this regard, it welcomed the close collaboration between ECE and the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) of UNEP and encouraged the inclusion of WHO/EURO and other relevant organizations. Furthermore, the Committee:

(a) Agreed that particular emphasis should be placed on identifying the key issues that should be pursued by ECE member countries in the years to come and on submitting a statement that highlights the sustainable development agenda for the ECE region to the global preparatory meetings for Rio+10;

(b) Decided to this end to convene a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting for Rio+10 in 2001;

(c) Recommended that the preparations for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Kiev should be taken into account in the preparations for Rio+10. At the same time the Committee underlined that these were two separate processes and, in this context, invited the Working Group of Senior Officials to review the dates for the Kiev Conference.

X. NEW OR ONGOING ACTIVITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

A. Strategic environmental assessment

19. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the consultative process on modalities to draw up a legally binding instrument on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) between representatives of the Espoo and the Aarhus Conventions as well as the Committee's Bureau, as reflected in the note prepared by the secretariat on strategic environmental assessment (CEP/2000/3).

20. Following a discussion, the Committee:

- (a) Welcomed the recommendation of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment to the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention to start the preparation of a protocol on SEA within the framework of the Convention;
- (b) Agreed with the recommendation of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention and the above-mentioned Working Group that the provisions of the Aarhus Convention should be reflected in the proposed SEA protocol;
- (c) Noted that the preparation of such an instrument could provide an excellent opportunity for cooperation between the Espoo and Aarhus Conventions, bringing together experts in a common working group to explore synergies and share experience on matters of common interest, and therefore agreed with the recommendation of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention that experts involved in the Aarhus process should be represented in the negotiation on the protocol;
- (d) Recommended that health issues should be fully taken into account in the proposed protocol, as well as work being undertaken in other international forums;
- (e) Recommended that the proposed protocol should be open to non-Parties to the Espoo Convention and to non-ECE countries;
- (f) Requested the ECE secretariat to start the preparation of a working document which would serve as a basis for starting a negotiation process following the second meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, and to involve the secretaries to both the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions in the preparation of the document as well as in the subsequent negotiation of the proposed protocol;
- (g) Recommended that the SEA protocol should be negotiated in time to be submitted to the Kiev Ministerial Conference.

B. Transport, environment and health

21. The Committee was informed about the draft synthesis report “Overview of Instruments Relevant to Transport, Environment and Health and Recommendations for Further Steps”, prepared jointly by the ECE and WHO secretariats, with the assistance of consultants and with support of the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the French Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and UNEP, in order to fulfil a mandate given at the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (London, 1999). Interested member States and different stakeholders were consulted throughout the preparation of the draft report by means of three informal ECE-WHO meetings. Based on the comments received during and after a meeting held on 5 September, the draft synthesis report would be finalized by the two secretariats by the end of November. The draft report and other relevant documents were available on the Internet at <http://www.unece.org/poja/london.htm>

22. The Committee:

- (a) Reminded the delegations to send their comments on the report in writing to the secretariat by 15 October;
- (b) Noted that a high-level meeting of transport, environment and health ministers was scheduled for spring 2001 to decide on the recommendations of the report, in particular on

launching a new framework convention on transport sustainable for environment and health;

(c) Emphasized the importance of concerted country positions for the recommendations and requested delegations to proceed with consultations among the three sectors in time for the high-level meeting.

C. Transport and the environment

23. The Committee took note of the report of the third session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and Environment (JMTE/2000/8), held on 6 June 2000 as a follow-up to the 1997 Vienna Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment. As the main outcome of the meeting, the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and Environment was created to assist the Joint Meeting *inter alia* in the preparation of the 2002 mid-term review of the Vienna Programme of Joint Action as well as to follow the work of the WHO Steering Group for the implementation of the London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group was scheduled for 26 and 27 February 2001.

24. A number of activities had been initiated to implement the Programme of Joint Action, both at the national and at the international levels. To promote the implementation of the national actions, national focal points on transport and environment had been established in 44 member States. Moreover, the Joint Meeting had adopted a work plan for the international level, listing a number of meetings and workshops to assist the implementation of international action. Detailed information was available on the Internet at: <http://www.unece.org/poja>

D. Environmental monitoring

25. The Committee was informed about the outcome of the preparatory meeting on environmental monitoring convened by its Bureau in Geneva on 25 September 2000 in pursuance of the conclusions of the fourth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Aarhus, 1998) and the recommendations of the Pan-European Governmental Meeting "Development of an Environmental Monitoring System in the European Region" (Moscow, December 1999).

26. Delegations taking part in the discussion supported the establishment by the Committee of an ad hoc working group and stressed the need, in particular, to involve actively the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the proposed activities, using relevant indicators developed recently in the European Commission and to take into account the monitoring work under the ECE environmental conventions and the evaluation of its EPR programme.

27. The Committee welcomed the results of the preparatory meeting on environmental monitoring held on 25 September 2000 (CEP/AC.10/2000/2) and in particular:

(a) Established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring chaired by the Russian Federation; and

(b) Adopted the Working Group's terms of reference (see annex III to the present report) and work plan as prepared at the preparatory meeting (CEP/AC.10/2000/2, annex II).

28. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Committee that Mr. Yuri Tsaturov, Vice Head of the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring, would chair the Working Group.

XI. OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIZATION

A. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

29. The secretariat presented the report of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention (CEP/WG.5/2000/2). Eight countries had ratified, approved or acceded to the Convention, half the number required for entry into force. On the basis of information provided by Governments at the second meeting of the Signatories, the Convention was expected to enter into force during 2001.

30. The Committee:

(a) Adopted the report of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention, including the establishment of additional task forces dealing with access to justice and electronic information tools and the proposal to hold a workshop on articles 7 and 8 of the Convention;

(b) Decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group charged with the preparation of a legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers, with a view to having such an instrument ready for adoption at the Kiev Ministerial Conference;

(c) Agreed that a third meeting of the Signatories should provisionally be scheduled to take place during the period September to November 2001, but if the Convention entered into force earlier than expected, the Bureau would have a mandate to cancel the proposed meeting and to convene an open-ended ad hoc working group to prepare the documentation for the first meeting of the Parties;

(d) Noted the continuing need for financial support in the light of the increasing workload under the Convention and encouraged donor Governments to provide such support.

B. Other ECE multilateral environmental agreements

31. The Committee took note of the information provided on the other ECE multilateral environmental agreements and in particular on:

(a) The status of ratification and key developments and activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, in particular the new focus on implementation, review and revision following the adoption of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone in December 1999;

(b) The report on the major achievements and further work under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). These included the International Water Assessment Centre, hosted by the Netherlands Institute on Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment, which had become operational on 23 September 2000; the adoption and implementation - through pilot

projects in countries in transition - of guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and groundwaters; the completion of guidelines on sustainable flood prevention and recommendations on the prevention and limitation of the effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters (the latter completed as a joint activity with the Industrial Accidents Convention). It took also note of the fact that most activities under the Water Convention were being undertaken jointly with other organizations of the United Nations system, notably WHO/EURO, UNEP/ROE, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as well as the European Commission and the European Environment Agency and its Topic Centres. It noted the dates and venue of the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health (Budapest, 2-3 November 2000) and the servicing of these activities by a joint secretariat made up of ECE and WHO/EURO staff. Forthcoming work included the completion of policy guidelines on public participation in water management, drawing on the Aarhus Convention; and compliance with agreements;

(c) The discussions triggered by recent water-related accidents among the Parties to the Water Convention and other international forums, in particular the Industrial Accidents Convention, on how to prevent such accidents in the future and better control their consequences. Relevant liability rules would be assessed, gaps with regard to liability rules would be identified and options would be drawn up with a view to filling these gaps, including non-binding or legally binding instruments. One option was a joint protocol to both the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions;

(d) The advanced stage of preparation for the second meeting of the Parties to the EIA Convention, which would be held in February 2001 in Sofia (Bulgaria) at the invitation of the Government of Bulgaria. Reference was made to those issues which were expected to be decided, such as allowing non-ECE countries to become a Party to the Convention, a compliance regime and links with other conventions. The Espoo Convention currently had 31 Parties and more ratifications were expected in the near future;

(e) The preparatory process for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

32. The Committee:

(a) Expressed its support for the initiative to launch the negotiation of a joint protocol on liability to the ECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and looked forward to the relevant decisions to be taken by the governing bodies of the two Conventions;

(b) Agreed on the proposed dates and venue for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents from 22 to 24 November 2000 in Brussels (at the invitation of the European Commission).

C. “Environment for Europe” process

1. Energy and the environment

33. A representative of the secretariat presented the results of the Workshop on enhancing the environment by reforming energy prices held in Průhonice near Prague on 14-16 June 2000

(CEP/2000/6). It was convened by the Committee on Environmental Policy jointly with OECD, and in cooperation with the ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy. Mr. G. Kowalski, Director of the ECE Energy Division, informed the Committee about the progress made by the Intergovernmental Group on the ECE contribution on energy to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including the preparations for the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Energy in a Competitive Market to be held in Geneva on 1 November 2000.

34. The delegation of the Czech Republic presented a proposal by the Czech Ministries of the Environment and of Industry and Trade to establish, as a follow-up to the Průhonice Workshop, a joint task force of the ECE Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy to develop, on the basis of Workshop recommendations, detailed guidelines to policy makers on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable development.

35. The Committee:

(a) Welcomed the report and took note of the recommendations (CEP/2000/6), and emphasized the need to take into consideration the energy-related provisions of the Aarhus Ministerial Declaration and the progress to be reported under the Energy Charter Treaty Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects as requested by the Committee at its sixth session;

(b) Invited the Committee on Sustainable Energy to consider establishing, together with the Committee on Environmental Policy, a cooperative mechanism, such as a task force on environment and energy, to develop legally non-binding guidelines for decision makers on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable development, on the basis of the Workshop's results and on existing work carried out by other forums and in cooperation with OECD, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Energy Charter Secretariat, the European Commission and relevant NGOs. These guidelines could be submitted at a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the two Committees in early 2002 and thereafter, if agreed, to the Working Group of Senior Officials preparing the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev;

(c) Invited interested member countries to consider taking the lead of the proposed task force and inform the secretariat accordingly;

(d) Took note of the information provided by the Director of the ECE Energy Division on the preparations by the Committee on Sustainable Energy for the ninth session of Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. Follow-up to the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol

36. The secretariat provided information on the phasing out of lead in petrol as reported by the Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Details would be available after the presentation to the Executive Body for the Convention at its eighteenth session in November 2000. Responses from 30 countries indicated that a majority had already phased out leaded petrol and the remaining countries would do so by 2005. The results of the ECE Questionnaire were not publicly available yet and the small working group that was to review progress on the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Lead would be able to do so only at the next session of the Committee.

3. Local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns

37. The secretariat informed the Committee about the outcome of the first meeting of the Steering Group on Urban Transport Patterns and Land-use Planning (May 2000, Lyons, France) (CEP/2000/7), and in particular its work plan, and about the discussions on this issue held at the recent session of the Committee on Human Settlements.

38. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the progress made in the project implementation;
- (b) Welcomed the invitation of the Communauté urbaine of the City of Lyons to host a workshop on urban transport patterns and land-use planning on 20-22 June 2001;
- (c) Invited Governments, particularly those of countries in transition, to designate experts for the project's Steering Group and to inform the secretariat by 16 October 2000 accordingly.

4. Integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies

39. The Chairman of the Committee reported on the consultation on integrating environmental considerations with sectoral policies held in Chisinau on 25 February 2000 at the initiative of Mr. Arcadie Capcelea, Minister of Environment and Territorial Development of the Republic of Moldova. He also introduced a proposal by the Bureau on a follow-up to this initiative (CEP/2000/5).

40. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the outcome of the consultation on integrating environmental considerations with sectoral policies; and
- (b) Welcomed the proposal by the Bureau and entrusted it with the implementation of this programme activity by evaluating the state of the art, gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities for policy integration, for consideration by the Committee at its next session. Work of other international organizations should be taken into account.

5. Preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference

41. The Committee considered the following topics as possible items to be put on the agenda of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe":

- SEA - new protocol
- Transport, environment and health - possible new framework convention
- Environmental monitoring
- Pollutant release and transfer registers - new protocol
- Civil liability for damage caused by industrial accidents - possible new protocol
- Progress reporting on Aarhus energy decisions, possible guidelines on reforming energy prices
- Phase out of leaded petrol - review of the Strategy
- Sustainable consumption patterns - possible guidelines.

D. Environment and health

42. The Committee took note of the information provided on the European Environment and Health Committee's (EEHC) activities by the Co-Chairmen, Mr. Clini (Italy) and Mr. Schreiber (Austria), and on the ongoing cooperation between the two sectors. Furthermore, the Committee invited all countries to make use of the EEHC web site. The Committee agreed to extend the duration of EEHC membership from two to two years and a half.

E. Activities of the regional adviser

43. The Committee took note of the information provided on the activities of the regional adviser, mainly within four areas:

- (a) Implementation of the ECE environmental conventions and EPR recommendations, in particular the ECE Water Convention;
- (b) Implementation of ECE activities in the framework of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe;
- (c) Implementation of ECE activities in Central Asia, the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs); and
- (d) Developing joint water-related activities with the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the Mediterranean region.

44. It welcomed the fact that his activities were fully integrated in the work of the Environment and Human Settlements Division and that they combined the need for operational support for the implementation of divisional priorities with operational requirements under related special subregional programmes.

F. Prioritization of elements in the programme of work

45. The Committee prioritized the elements in its programme of work based on responses received from member countries, as contained in annex I to this report.

XII. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECE TRUST FUNDS

46. The Committee took note of the current negative balance of the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and urged countries to make further contributions to allow current activities to continue, new activities to start and delegations from countries in transition to participate. The delegations of Denmark and Norway announced that they would contribute to the trust fund.

47. The Committee accepted new guiding principles for financial assistance to representatives of countries in transition to attend ECE meetings, as contained in a proposal put forward by its Bureau and contained in annex IV. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed a reservation on this point.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

48. The delegation of the Netherlands presented a project proposal on environmental compliance and enforcement. The Committee endorsed the proposal and mandated an open-ended task force led by the Netherlands with the assistance of the ECE secretariat to start work on the item and report on progress to the Bureau and at the Committee's next session.

49. On the initiative of the Bureau of the Committee, an evaluation of the session was undertaken through a questionnaire to delegations. The results of the questionnaire would be submitted to the Bureau at its next meeting for consideration, with the intention of finding ways to improve the work of the Committee and the secretariat in support of the Committee.

50. The Committee expressed its appreciation to its outgoing Chairman, Mr. L. Bjornskov (Denmark), as well as to Mr. B. K. Yessekin (Kazakhstan), who would no longer participate in the work of the Committee, for their excellent contributions.

51. In accordance with suggestion made by delegations, the secretariat would continue to do its utmost to make available advance copies of all documents for future sessions through the Internet: www.unece.org

XIV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION

52. The Committee elected Mr. H. Von Meijfeldt (Netherlands) as its new Chairman. The Committee reconfirmed Ms. H. Cizková (Czech Republic), Ms. S. Côté (Canada), Mr. M. Dimovski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. H. Schreiber (Austria), Ms. S. Vermont-Velisek (Switzerland) as Bureau members. It also welcomed the expected nominations of Bureau members by the delegations of Kazakhstan and of the Russian Federation.

XV. CLOSING OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

53. The draft decisions taken by the Committee at its seventh session and prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman were distributed before the closing of the meeting. The secretariat was requested to finalize the report in consultation with the outgoing Bureau.

54. The eighth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy is scheduled to take place on 24 to 28 September 2001.

Annex ILONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK
(2000-2002)SUBPROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENTPROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

Since the 1970s five regional environmental conventions have been negotiated and adopted within the framework of ECE: (i) the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; (ii) the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; (iii) the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; (iv) the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; and (v) the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The first four have entered into force and their governing bodies carry responsibility for further work. Furthermore, eight protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and a Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention have been adopted. The Committee will be informed about the progress in the work under the conventions and protocols, as appropriate.

1.1 FOLLOW-UP AND SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
CONVENTIONS

With a view to improving environmental quality in the ECE region, and relying in part on the programme of environmental performance reviews, the Committee will consider and, as appropriate, take measures to make the implementation of the regional environmental conventions and protocols more effective. The Committee will offer a catalysing forum in which all government representatives, including the governing bodies of regional conventions, can share their experience in promoting and assessing the implementation of regional environmental instruments, and then identify means of improving compliance with them. If needed, the Committee will negotiate new legal instruments.

Work accomplished:

A round-table discussion was organized within the framework of the seventh session with the participation of representatives of the governing bodies of the five ECE environmental conventions. The secretariat prepared a background paper in order to facilitate the discussions.

Work to be undertaken:

The governing bodies were invited to investigate possible synergies and areas of cooperation between the instruments and to identify any inconsistencies or specific features of the different legal texts. The secretariats and the competent authorities at national level were invited

to identify areas of possible joint work. Following the Committee's recommendation, the governing bodies will set up a joint working group to identify areas of common interest. Possible follow-up to these activities will be discussed at the eighth session.

1.2 CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was signed by 39 member States and the European Community. The member States that signed the Convention in Aarhus resolved to strive for its early entry into force and in the meantime to seek to apply the Convention to the maximum extent possible. At the time of the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, eight countries had ratified, approved or acceded to the Convention. On the basis of information submitted by Governments during the second meeting of its Signatories, the Convention is expected to enter into force during 2001.

Work accomplished:

The second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention took place in Croatia in July 2000. It was attended by 34 ECE member States and the European Community as well as by international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Meeting heard an exchange of information on the efforts of countries and others to promote the Convention, and reviewed progress in implementing the work plan that had been approved at the previous meeting. The activities of the three task forces established under the work plan, dealing respectively with compliance arrangements under the Convention (lead country United Kingdom), pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) (lead country Czech Republic), and genetically modified organisms (lead country Austria), were reviewed. Two further task forces were established, dealing with access to justice (lead country Estonia) and electronic information tools (lead country Austria) respectively.

Among the other activities undertaken to support the implementation process were the publication of an ECE Implementation Guide on the Convention, prepared as a joint project between ECE, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency; an international workshop on public participation at local level, hosted by the United Kingdom (Newcastle, December 1999); and a subregional training workshop on the Convention for both government officials and NGOs in Central Asia (Ashgabat, May 2000).

Work to be undertaken:

Arising from the work of the task force on PRTRs and in accordance with the decision of the Committee on Environmental Policy at its seventh session, an intergovernmental working group will be convened early in 2001 to start the preparation of a legally binding instrument on PRTRs, with a view to the instrument being ready for adoption at the Kiev Ministerial

Conference. The work of the task forces on genetically modified organisms and compliance will also eventually be discussed within intergovernmental working groups in preparation for submitting recommendations to the first meeting of the Parties. The working group dealing with compliance will elaborate further the draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties. A workshop on public participation in the context of policies, programmes, plans and legislation (responsible countries Czech Republic and Norway) will take place in November 2000, with a view to generating input to the expected negotiation of a new ECE protocol on strategic environmental assessment under the Espoo Convention. A workshop on electronic information tools is scheduled for March 2001. A series of subregional general training workshops are planned, starting with one for the South Caucasus region in December 2000.

A third meeting of the Signatories is provisionally scheduled to take place during the period September – November 2001.

1.3 CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was signed in 1979 and entered into force in March 1983. The Parties to the Convention and its protocols will work as agreed in their work plan for the implementation of the Convention. Following adoption of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone in Gothenburg (Sweden) in December 1999, the Convention will focus on the implementation, review and revision of existing protocols. Increased attention will be given to human health effects, fine particulates and the dynamics of environmental damage and recovery. The eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention will take place from 28 November to 1 December 2000. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention.

1.4 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was signed in 1992 and entered into force in October 1996. The Parties to the Convention will work as agreed in their 2000-2003 work plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. The first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol will take place in Budapest on 2-3 November 2000. The third meeting of the Parties to the Convention will take place in Spain in spring 2003. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention and its Protocol.

1.5 CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was signed in 1991 and entered into force in October 1997. The Parties to the Convention will work as agreed in their work plan for the implementation of the Convention. The second meeting of the Parties to the Convention is scheduled to take place in February 2001 in Sofia (Bulgaria). The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention.

1.6 CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was signed in 1992 and entered into force on 19 April 2000. The Convention aims to strengthen international cooperation on the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents in order to improve overall industrial safety in the ECE region. At present 19 countries and the European Community have ratified or acceded to the Convention. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention's governing body, will be held in Brussels on 22-24 November 2000.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

The Committee on Environmental Policy included environmental performance reviews of selected ECE countries in its work programme starting in 1996. A comprehensive programme description was developed by the EPR Expert Group during its first mandate from 1997 to 1999. The programme makes it possible to carry out comprehensive as well as reduced environmental performance reviews, and to organize discussions of general problems and experiences facing national environmental administrations in transition. Continued methodological and organizational guidance will be provided by the EPR Expert Group.

Comprehensive environmental performance reviews have been undertaken in Armenia, Croatia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Ukraine. Similar reviews were also carried out, in cooperation with OECD, in Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland and the Russian Federation. The first general discussion of transition problems took place in spring 2000 in Yerevan (Armenia).

2.1 THE ECE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROGRAMME

Work accomplished:

The peer reviews of the EPRs of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan took place at the Committee's seventh session in September 2000. The second review of Bulgaria was also peer-reviewed in September 2000. The final EPR reports will be published before the end of 2000.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) The review of Romania will continue with a review mission in autumn 2000, and a peer review by the Committee at the earliest possible time; an updating mission to the country might be necessary in the meantime;

(b) The review of Uzbekistan started with a preparatory mission in spring 2000; the review mission is scheduled for spring 2001; the report will be finalized for peer review at the Committee's eighth session in 2001;

(c) The review of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will start with a pre-

mission in spring 2001 and a review mission in autumn 2001; it will be peer-reviewed by the Committee in 2002;

(d) The second reduced review of Estonia will take place in early 2001 and be concluded before the Committee's eighth session so that it can be peer-reviewed in a similar manner as Bulgaria's reduced review;

(e) The pending review of Albania will be resumed at the earliest possible date.

2.2 EPR METHODS AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. HOW TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

Work accomplished:

At its sixth session, the Committee approved the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Expert Group on its two-year work. The Ad Hoc Expert Group for Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR Expert Group) was given a new mandate for the period 1999-2001. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the first joint workshop on "Environmental Management in Transition: Problems, Approaches, Results, Needs" was organized for selected countries (Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine). The report of the workshop was distributed at the seventh session of the Committee, as was a note on experience gained and difficulties encountered in holding the workshop.

Work to be undertaken:

The EPR Expert Group, taking into account the guidance by the Committee at its seventh session, will:

(a) Identify opportunities and requirements for improving the EPRs, including an effective mechanism for coordinating them with the OECD EPR programme;

(b) Assess the environmental trends relevant to the EPR process;

(c) Review and improve environmental database development in ECE as well as related services;

(d) Draw up proposals for follow-up to EPRs, such as interim reports or follow-up reviews, to be submitted to the Committee, taking into account relevant international activities and the specific needs of countries in transition; and

(e) Draw up proposals on the format and structure of the peer review, taking into account the experience gained with the Ukrainian and Armenian assessment reviews, the preparatory sessions for the peer reviews of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and the peer reviews of comprehensive and reduced reviews.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3

“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” PROCESS/ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE

At the Aarhus Conference, the Environment Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to improving cooperation on environmental protection in the ECE region. They also recognized the political importance of the “Environment for Europe” process as the major long-term pan-European political framework for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development.

In particular, the Committee on Environmental Policy was requested to continue to screen the Environmental Programme for Europe, taking into account the report “Europe’s Environment: The Second Assessment”, in order to implement priority actions on a pan-European level and report on progress.

3.1 ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

At the Aarhus Conference, the Ministers acknowledged the complex, cross-sectoral nature of energy-efficiency policies and the need for integrating those policies into other sectors, for instance housing, transport and industry. The Ministers agreed to promote action to strengthen international cooperation on monitoring the implementation of energy-efficiency policies. The Chairman of the working group on the implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA) reported to the Committee on progress made in its implementation.

Work accomplished

The ECE/OECD Workshop on Enhancing the Environment by Reforming Energy Prices, held in Průhonice near Prague (Czech Republic) from 14 to 16 June 2000, prepared recommendations to ECE Governments.

Work to be undertaken:

The Committee on Environmental Policy, in cooperation with the Committee on Sustainable Energy and other relevant international organizations (such as the Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), will monitor the implementation of the energy-related decisions taken at the Aarhus Conference. In particular, it will:

- (a) Consider, jointly with the Committee on Sustainable Energy, establishing a cooperative mechanism such as a joint task force on environment and energy, to develop non-legally binding guidelines for decision makers on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable development, on the basis of the Průhonice Workshop’s results;
- (b) Consider, at its annual sessions, PEEREA progress reports prepared by the Energy

Charter Secretariat in close cooperation with ECE and other relevant international organizations and institutions. These reports will also be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

3.2 FOLLOW-UP TO THE STRATEGY TO PHASE OUT LEADED PETROL

The Aarhus Conference endorsed the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol for general use by road vehicles as early as possible and no later than 1 January 2005. The Ministers committed themselves to working towards the intermediate targets of the Strategy and to evaluating their fulfilment at the next conference. The Committee will promote the implementation of the Strategy.

Work accomplished:

The Committee was provided with preliminary information on the phasing out of lead in petrol as reported by the Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in response to a questionnaire.

Work to be undertaken:

A small working group together with the ECE secretariat will review progress on the Pan-European Strategy to Phase Out Added Lead in Petrol based among other things on answers to the regular questionnaire on air pollution.

3.3 LOCAL INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

The Environmental Programme for Europe encourages the necessary changes in consumption patterns and individual lifestyles through awareness raising, technical regulations and economic incentives. It furthermore promotes partnerships between governments at various levels, non-governmental organizations and other major groups. The Aarhus Conference recognized that changes in consumption and production patterns must lie at the heart of the transition towards a sustainable ECE region.

Work accomplished:

The Committee on Environmental Policy, in cooperation with the Committee on Human Settlements, organized the Workshop on Encouraging Local Initiatives Towards Sustainable Consumption Patterns in 1998. As a follow-up, the two Committees launched jointly a project on urban transport patterns and land-use planning. The project's steering group developed a detailed work programme.

Work to be undertaken:

The steering group, composed of experts from central and local governments, the private sector, the academic community and NGOs, will (a) facilitate the exchange of information and experience on planning, regulatory, economic, financial, organizational and other measures to

achieve environmentally sound urban transport and sustainable land use; (b) promote networking among environmental and municipal policy and decision makers, urban and regional planners, researchers, and representatives of the private sector and citizens groups dealing with transport management and land use; (c) develop guidelines to governments on a strategic approach to integrating urban transport management with land-use planning and environmental policies. The development of the guidelines will involve the organization of an international workshop to be held on 20-22 June 2001 in Lyons (France). The results of the workshop will be presented to the Committees on Human Settlements and on Environmental Policies in September 2001. The draft guidelines will be submitted to the Bureaux of the two ECE Committees at a joint meeting in 2002 and thereafter, if agreed, to the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

3.4 INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO SECTORAL POLICIES

One of the topics of recent debate on environmental policy has been that environmental concerns should be integrated in the activities of sectors in society with relevance to the environment. From an environmental point of view, efficient integration would lead to a more effective implementation of environmental policies. For different reasons integration has proven to be difficult in many countries: (i) there is a lack of high-level political support; (ii) the sectoral administrations have little environmental expertise; (iii) there may be disagreement on the environmental priorities and environmental impacts; (iv) there are no effective mechanisms in place to oversee the integration and its implementation at different levels; (v) the sectoral authorities are primarily interested in the outcome of their prime responsibilities, not in the environment; and (vi) there is often a lack of sectoral expertise in the environmental administrations. The Committee will support the integration of environmental policy into sectoral policies. Particular attention will be given to the countries in transition, many of which are still in the process of building their environmental administrations, including at the local level.

Work accomplished:

An open-ended informal consultation on experience gained in countries in transition in integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies was held on 20 September 1999. At its sixth session, the Committee considered the proposals for a programme on policy integration (CEP/1999/3). A consultation on integrating environmental considerations with sectoral policies was held in Chisinau on 25 February 2000. The Committee, at its seventh session, considered a note by the Bureau on the follow-up to this consultation (CEP/2000/5).

Work to be undertaken:

Taking into account the relevant activities of other bodies (such as the European Union, OECD, EAP Task Force, UNEP, Council of Europe, Baltic Agenda 21), the Committee's Bureau will prepare a paper on policy integration for the Kiev Conference, possibly in the form of guidelines on integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies. As a first step, it will consider the state of the art, gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities for policy integration, involving all major players, including the above-mentioned organizations, in its work or coordinating its

activities with them.

3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

The Ministers at Aarhus recognized that mechanisms for coordinated monitoring, data collection, processing and management in the European region were still inadequate. They agreed to give high priority to improving these mechanisms as well as the state of environmental information to support decision-making and to improve the availability of reliable environmental information to the public.

Work accomplished

As a follow-up to the pertinent provisions of the Aarhus Ministerial Declaration and the recommendations of the Moscow 1999 meeting, the Preparatory Meeting on Environmental Monitoring (Geneva, 25 September 2000) drew up terms of reference and a work programme for a working group on environmental monitoring. The Committee, at its seventh session, established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring for the initial period up to the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev.

Work to be undertaken

The Working Group will promote the coordination of efforts in the area of environmental monitoring, and in particular towards preparations for the Kiev Conference "Environment for Europe" in accordance with its work plan (CEP/AC.10/2000/2, annex II). It will in particular:

- (a) Contribute to the development of the third pan-European assessment report, appraise the difficulties encountered and make recommendations on how to improve the situation;
- (b) Undertake an in-depth analysis of a significant area of environmental monitoring, identify good practices to overcome the most pervasive obstacles and develop recommendations;
- (c) Identify areas where harmonization is needed and develop recommendations on priority actions;
- (d) Consider proposals on the role of remotely sensed environmental information and make recommendations, as appropriate.

3.6 PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The Committee will participate in the substantive and practical preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in 2003.

Work accomplished:

The Committee considered provisionally its substantive input for the fifth Ministerial Conference. The Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" established by the Committee at its sixth session held its first meeting on 29 September 2000.

Work to be undertaken:

The Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" will hold regular meetings in order to prepare the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4

CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

The Ministers at the Aarhus Conference noted the work under other ongoing or proposed ministerial processes concerned with the environment in Europe, such as transport and the environment, health and the environment, forest and the environment, and agriculture and the environment. The Committee will follow carefully the preparations for a high-level conference on agriculture and multifunctionality possibly in 2001, which is under consideration in the follow-up to the Integration of Biological and Landscape Diversity Objectives into Sectoral Policies as announced at the Aarhus Conference. The Committee, through its Bureau, will also cooperate, as appropriate, with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes concerning the integration of water management into agricultural policies.

4.1 TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1.1. Follow-up to the ECE Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment held in Vienna in 1997

The Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment reviewed the national and international activities to implement the Programme of Joint Action. The timeframe for the implementation of the Programme is ten years, with a mid-term review conference scheduled for 2002. The Joint Meeting adopted a work plan for the period July 2000 to June 2001 for international activities to implement the Programme. Furthermore, it established a Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment to assist it, in particular in identifying priorities for the effective implementation of the Programme of Joint Action and in the preparation of the 2002 mid-term review. The mid-term review is planned as a high-level meeting between the ECE Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

Work accomplished:

The Committee sent experts to the meeting of national focal points, lead actors and other experts organized by the secretariat on 7 February 2000 to further the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action. The Bureaux of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy participated in the third session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment of June 2000. A number of specific activities have been initiated at the national and international level to implement the Programme of Joint Action.

Work to be undertaken:

The secretariat will organize the first meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Transport and the Environment on 26 and 27 February 2001 and the fourth session of the Joint Meeting on 6 June 2001. Member States will participate in the meeting of the Expert Group and the Bureau of the Committee will participate in the fourth session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment. Member States will continue their activities to implement the Programme of Joint Action or initiate work to this effect. The Committee will follow closely the progress in the implementation of the Programme. The Committee will also consider possible further synergies between its work programme and the Programme of Joint Action and support close integration of work on the environment, transport and health (see item 4.1.2 below).

4.1.2. Follow-up to the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in London in June 1999

The Charter on Transport, Environment and Health and the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 1999 London Ministerial Conference mandated WHO and ECE jointly and in cooperation with other international organizations to provide an overview of relevant existing agreements and legal instruments. The report was to cover the feasibility, necessity and content of a new legally binding instrument.

Work accomplished:

The ECE and WHO/EURO secretariats prepared jointly a draft synthesis report "Overview of relevant existing agreements and legal instruments on transport, environment and health and recommendations for further steps", as requested at the London Ministerial Conference. The two secretariats prepared the draft report under the guidance of the Bureaux of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Inland Transport and of the WHO Regional Committee. Furthermore, in the course of 2000, the two secretariats organized three informal ECE-WHO meetings to consult the member States and other interested stakeholders for the preparation of the draft report. The recommendations of the report, in particular on the feasibility and content of a new framework convention on transport sustainable for environment and health, were reviewed and commented on at the third Joint Informal ECE-WHO Meeting on 5 September 2000.

Work to be undertaken:

Based on the comments received from the member States and interested stakeholders during and after the third Joint Informal ECE-WHO Meeting, the draft synthesis report will be finalized by the two secretariats by the end of November. The member States are to provide their input for the finalization of the report by mid-October.

A high-level meeting on transport, environment and health is scheduled for spring 2001 to decide on the recommendations of the report. The member States will ensure that their transport, environment and health sectors put forward a coordinated position at the meeting.

4.2 ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) was established as a result of the 1994 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Helsinki.

The third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in London from 16 to 18 June 1999. This Conference aimed to set an agenda for environment and health in Europe for the start of the 21st century and to agree on concrete commitments to specific actions to implement the National Environment and Health Action Plans (NEHAPs). EEHC has supervised and supported the drafting of NEHAPs. EEHC, which was also the Steering Committee for the preparation of the London Conference, prepared the substantive proposals for the Conference. One major item was the adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The London Conference also produced a charter on transport, environment and health and a ministerial declaration.

Work accomplished:

EEHC has so far held two meetings, in Geneva and Chisinau in December 1999 and in June 2000, respectively. It also held an extraordinary meeting in Vienna in April 2000 to review the consequences of the recent accident in the lower Danube basin. At its sixth session, the Committee on Environmental Policy elected its representatives (Austria, Bulgaria, Italy and Republic of Moldova) to the European Environment and Health Committee. EEHC reviewed the follow-up actions to the London Conference on Environment and Health and adopted its terms of reference and rules of procedure.

Work to be undertaken:

The Committee will improve cooperation between the “Environment for Europe” process and the “Environment and Health” process, as called for in the Aarhus Ministerial Declaration, so as to develop and implement measures to better protect human health and the environment. The Committee will continue to contribute to the European Environment and Health Committee through its representatives.

**PRIORITIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

(Based on replies received from 13 member countries)

Programme elements	Outcome of the priority setting in 1998	Proposed priority level in 2000 H/M/L	Regular budget Professional staff
Follow-up and support to the regional environmental conventions	78	H	0.3
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	84	H	1.3
Environmental performance review programme	71	H	3.4
EPR methods and organizational matters	63		0.1
Energy and the environment	62	M	0.1
Follow-up to the strategy to phase out leaded petrol	60	L	0.1
Local initiatives towards sustainable consumption patterns	62	M	0.2
Integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies	71	H	0.2
Preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference	55	H	0.6
Transport and environment	80	H	0.2
Environment and health	78	M	0.1
Data monitoring	-	M	0.1
Environment, transport and health (see para.22 (b))	-	H	0.2

Furthermore 0.1 is reserved for servicing the Committee and its Bureau, and for general follow-up and implementation of the Committee's decisions etc.

With the addition of one extra staff, what additional activities would the Committee consider?

Within the framework of the Committee on Environmental Policy's mandate, an additional post would be used to service the Aarhus Convention.

Within the reduction of one extra staff member, what activities would the Committee consider reducing?

No single staff member is assigned for one programme element outside the EPRs and the above Convention. The reduction of one staff would thus require the reduction of several programme elements of importance for the preparations for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference and/or cross-sectoral cooperation.

H = High priority; M = Medium priority; L = Low priority

Annex II

SUPPORTING THE ECE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Summary of the round-table discussion held on 27 September 2000,
within the framework of the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy

1. The Committee on Environmental Policy, recognizing the importance of increasing cooperation and identifying synergies between the different ECE multilateral environmental agreements, decided to provide a catalysing forum for their governing bodies to consider jointly measures to increase the instruments' overall effectiveness. This forum was also meant to facilitate the exchange of experience on implementation.
2. At its sixth session, the Committee on Environmental Policy, based on a proposal from the secretariat, decided to address this issue in two steps. To this end it:
 - (a) Requested the secretariat to prepare a background discussion paper on cooperation and interlinkages between ECE multilateral environmental agreements to facilitate further discussions; and
 - (b) Decided to organize a round-table discussion on supporting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements within the framework of its seventh session with the participation of the governing bodies.
3. The background discussion paper (CEP/2000/1) was prepared by Mr. L. Nordberg, a consultant to the secretariat, and made available well before the seventh session of the Committee.
4. The round-table discussion on supporting the ECE multilateral environmental agreements was held on Wednesday, 27 September 2000 and chaired by Mr. L. Bjørnskov, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Policy.
5. It was attended by the following representatives of the governing bodies of the five ECE multilateral environmental agreements: Ms. V. Grigorava (Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention), Mr. R. Ballaman (Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution), Mr. J. Zurek (Meeting of the Signatories to the Industrial Accidents Convention), Mr. C. de Villeneuve (Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention), Mr. F. La Camera (Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention).
6. Mr. L. Bjørnskov outlined the intention of the Committee to provide a forum for discussion among the conventions' governing bodies. He stressed the historical nature of this event. This was the first time that the representatives of the governing bodies met to discuss issues of common interest.
7. The background discussion paper was then introduced by Mr. L. Nordberg, who pointed to the differences on the one hand and the potential synergies on the other between the ECE environmental conventions. He summarized the conclusions contained in the paper on areas and issues of possible cooperation and joint work.

8. The representatives of each of the governing bodies introduced briefly their legal instrument and identified areas in which cooperation with other ECE conventions or other legal instruments already existed or was possible.
9. The representative of the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution said that the international experience gained within this instrument, being the first one to have entered into force, and its framework to promote and monitor its implementation by the Signatories and the Parties could be shared and prove useful for the younger ECE conventions.
10. The representative of the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention stressed in particular the planned negotiation process for a new protocol on strategic environmental assessment and the envisaged cooperation and input to this process from experts representing the Aarhus Convention. She also pointed out that synergies and interlinkages with other ECE environmental agreements had already been discussed and a paper on the subject had been prepared.
11. The representatives of both the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and the Meeting of the Signatories and Industrial Accidents Convention^{1/} underlined the joint work that had been done within the framework of both instruments. In particular, they stressed the work of a joint ad hoc expert group which had led to a set of recommendations on the prevention of accidental water pollution, to be implemented by the Parties to both Conventions. Furthermore they pointed to the possibility of launching of an intergovernmental negotiation process for a joint protocol on civil liability for damage caused by industrial accidents with transboundary effects under both Conventions.
12. The representative of the Water Convention also mentioned joint work with experts from the Aarhus Convention on developing guidelines on public participation under the Water Convention.
13. The representative of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention stressed that the attention of the other ECE conventions' governing bodies should be drawn to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention using discussions as this one. He pointed out that all the other instruments already had provisions on public participation and that this was a good starting point for further cooperation. While promoting synergies between the conventions, he also pointed to the need for reducing inconsistencies between them.
14. Then followed an overall discussion with the active participation of delegations to the Committee on Environmental Policy. All delegations were in agreement that the role of the Committee could only be to catalyse discussions as this one and promote further cooperation between the conventions. However, this cooperation must be demand-driven and be justified by a common interest to undertake joint work. It must also take into account the resources available to each of the governing bodies.
15. The main message emerging from this exchange of views was that closer cooperation on

all three levels- intergovernmental, within national structures and between the secretariats of the conventions- would contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements. To this end, the participants endorsed the conclusions of the Committee (see para. 15 of the report of the seventh session above) and welcomed this opportunity to continue the dialogue among the conventions and the Committee and to further discuss the outcome of the new joint working group.

16. The round-table discussion was closed by Mr. L. Bjørnskov, who thanked the representatives of the governing bodies for accepting the invitation and participating in it.

¹ The Industrial Accidents Convention entered into force on 19 April 2000. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties is scheduled to take place on 22-24 November 2000.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP
ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

as approved by the Committee on Environmental Policy on 28 September 2000

1. Pursuant to the conclusions of the fourth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Aarhus, 1998) and the recommendations of the Pan-European Governmental Meeting “Development of an Environmental Monitoring System in the European Region” (Moscow, December 1999), the Committee on Environmental Policy establishes the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring for the initial period up to the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to be held in Kiev. The Working Group should serve as an instrument for ECE member States to provide recommendations, to propose action plans, and to strengthen international initiatives within the region in the area of environmental monitoring and related areas of common interest for cooperation, with a view to supporting decision-making processes.
2. The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring will promote the coordination of efforts in the area of environmental monitoring, and in particular towards preparations for the Kiev Conference “Environment for Europe”. It should contribute:
 - (a) In the short term, to the development of the indicator-based report for the Kiev Conference as requested by the Ministers at Aarhus (the third Pan-European Assessment);
 - (b) In the medium term, to an appraisal of future monitoring and reporting requirements within the framework of the “Environment for Europe” process taking account of broader reporting required by the relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
3. The Working Group should take fully into account the work of existing international networks and forums, and give priority to the following specific areas:
 - (a) Outlining compatible standards and formats for environmental monitoring and reporting;
 - (b) Steps to improve data transfer and use;
 - (c) Cooperation on a harmonized meta-database, on sources of data and data sets, institutes, reports and other information products;
 - (d) Cooperation on a multilingual environmental thesaurus, as necessary;
 - (e) Publication on-line of state-of-the-environment reports;
 - (f) Linking of relevant web sites;
 - (g) Working, inter alia, on integrated indicators on ecosystem status.

In addition, the scope for application of satellite and other remote-sensing technologies to complement ground-based environmental monitoring systems and networks should be considered.

4. The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring will be open to all ECE member States and include the European Environment Agency. Participation of international organizations and NGOs active in the ECE region should be guided by normal ECE procedures.

5. The work of the Working Group should be conducted within a spirit of such full and open access to environmental data as is compatible with the legislation of the participating member States.
6. The Committee on Environmental Policy elects the Chair of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring.
7. The Working Group will report on its work to the Committee on Environmental Policy and through it to the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" as regards its work in relation to the Kiev Conference.
8. The ECE secretariat will provide the necessary secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in accordance with ECE rules and practices.

Annex IV

CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT BASED ON GDP PER CAPITA

Country	US\$ per capita 1999	Note: threshold set for financial support in 1999 = US\$ 2000; countries with GDP per capita below US\$ 1000 are eligible for financial support (travel expenses and DSA 1/); countries with GDP per capita between US\$ 1000 and 2000 are eligible for financial support (DSA only); countries exceeding the threshold are not eligible for financial support.
Slovenia	9886	Not eligible for financial support
Czech Republic	5176	
Croatia	4507	
Hungary	4813	
Poland	3983	
Slovakia	3501	
Estonia	3605	
Lithuania	2892	
Latvia	2767	
FYR of Macedonia	1715	Eligible for financial support (DSA only)
Yugoslavia	1680	
Romania	1519	
Bulgaria	1462	
Russian Federation	1235	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1172	
Albania	1160	
Belarus	1070	
Kazakhstan	974	Eligible for financial support
Turkmenistan	746	
Uzbekistan	686	
Ukraine	607	
Georgia	546	
Armenia	525	
Azerbaijan	520	
Republic of Moldova	261	
Kyrgyzstan	260	
Tajikistan	179	
TOTAL COUNTRIES	27	
ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES	18	
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR DSA only	8	
COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES + DSA	10	

1/ DSA - daily subsistence allowance.