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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring
(Second session, 28 February-1 March 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 28 February

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the first session.
3. Support to the development of the Kiev assessment report:
 - (a) Table of contents of the report;
 - (b) Data collection;
 - (c) Preliminary analysis;
 - (d) Indicators.
4. Strengthening and harmonizing national monitoring activities:
 - (a) Assessment of countries' situations;
 - (b) Air pollution monitoring;

- (c) Monitoring of hazardous substances;
 - (d) Waste data and classifications;
 - (e) New Tacis monitoring project.
5. Tools and guidelines.
 6. Remote sensing.
 7. Environmental monitoring and assessment activities in other international forums.
 8. Other business.

PRELIMINARY TIME SCHEDULE

Thursday, 28 February 2002

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 1 - 3

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Item 4 (a)

Friday, 1 March 2002

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items 4 (b) – 4 (e)

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Items 5 - 8

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Working Group is open to all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Other member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.3, paras. 11, 12 and 13). The registration procedure is described in the annex.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt its agenda.

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the first session

The Working Group is invited to adopt the report as contained in document CEP/AC.10/2001/2.

Item 3: Support to the development of the Kiev assessment report

(a) Table of contents of the report

At its first session, the Working Group discussed a draft list of contents of the Kiev assessment report prepared by the European Environment Agency (EEA) (CEP/AC.10/2001/5). Representatives of EEA will inform the Working Group about the corrections made to that list to reflect the comments and proposals made by delegations (CEP/AC.10/2001/5/Corr.1).

(b) Data collection

Representatives of EEA will inform the Working Party about the data collection procedure for the Kiev report. The Russian version of the data collection guidelines for the Kiev report will be circulated among the interested delegations prior to the second session (the English version was available at the first session). A note on data collection, including questionnaires for country data on water, waste and soil, will be circulated under document symbol CEP/AC.10/2002/4 and Addenda. 1 to 3. The Working Group may wish to take note of this paper and invite delegations from the countries concerned to facilitate the submission of responses to the questionnaires.

(c) Preliminary analysis

Using data received from international databases in accordance with the data collection guidelines, EEA is preparing a preliminary analysis, in the form of completed indicator data sheets, of the countries that are covered by its networks. Representatives of EEA will make a graphic presentation of this analysis to the Working Group at its second session. The Working Group is expected to provide comments and possible guidance to EEA on the report's further report development.

(d) Indicators

The Working Group will discuss the indicators of the Kiev report and their use in national environmental reporting, especially in countries in transition (CEP/AC.10/2002/3).

Item 4: Strengthening and harmonizing national monitoring activities

The Working Group will discuss both national and international measures to be taken to improve and streamline the development of national environmental monitoring activities, and to facilitate pan-European assessments at the same time.

(a) Assessment of countries' situations

The Working Group will discuss a draft strategy for updating and developing the State system of pollution monitoring in Georgia (CEP/AC.10/2002/5), the development of the national environmental monitoring system in Belarus and a review of environmental monitoring activities in Central Asia on the basis of presentations by the delegations of the three above-mentioned countries and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia. The Working Group is expected to make recommendations to the Governments of the countries concerned, as appropriate.

Working Group members from other countries in transition may wish to volunteer to prepare country reports for consideration by the Working Group at its next sessions.

(b) Air pollution monitoring

The Working Group, at its first session, considered the monitoring activities coordinated by the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. As a follow-up, the Working Group, at its second session, will discuss a paper by the EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centre – East on air pollution monitoring in the newly independent States (NIS) and some other countries in transition, and the participation of these countries in international monitoring networks (CEP/AC.10/2002/6). The Working Group may decide on possible action to strengthen air pollution monitoring in NIS to be taken in collaboration with the EMEP Steering Body and with financial support from interested countries.

(c) Monitoring of hazardous substances

The Working Group will consider a paper by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Chemicals on progress made in its networking on chemicals monitoring and on the role and the involvement of UNECE countries in this project (CEP/AC.10/2002/7). The Working Group may decide on its possible role in improving country monitoring of hazardous substances taking into account this paper and the proposal that was discussed at its first session (CEP/AC.10/2001/6).

(d) Waste data and classifications

The Working Group will review sets of indicators developed by EEA to help individual countries to monitor progress made regarding waste prevention, waste management and material

flows, and provide comparable information at the pan-European level (CEP/AC.10/2002/8). It may wish to recommend Government of countries that are not covered by EEA networks to consider using these sets of indicators in their national practices.

(e) New Tacis monitoring project

Representatives of the European Commission will be invited to inform the Working Group about the Tacis project "Environmental Management Support in View of the Kiev 2003 Conference - NIS". The Working Group may wish to provide guidance for the project's implementing institution on practical links that could be established with activities of the Working Group.

Item 5: Tools and guidelines

The Chair of the Task Force led by the Russian Federation will inform the Working Group on the outcome of the Workshop on Information Technologies for Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, to be organized in Obninsk near Moscow on 7-9 February 2002, and on the Task Force's plans.

Item 6: Remote sensing

The Working Group will discuss a paper by the Joint Research Centre of the European Union on the role and contribution of remotely sensed information to monitoring and reporting on environmental problems across Europe (CEP/AC.10/2002/9), and it may decide on possible action in that area.

Item 7: Environmental monitoring and assessment activities in other international forums

The Working Group may wish to consider ways and means of implementing its mandate "to strengthen international initiatives within the region in the area of environmental monitoring and related areas of common interest for cooperation". To facilitate the discussion, a note by the secretariat on international environmental monitoring databases in the UNECE region (CEP/AC.10/2002/10) will be circulated.

The UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment will make a presentation on the preparation of the third Global Environment Outlook (GEO-3) report, including its coverage of the UNECE region.

Other international organizations may wish to provide information on their ongoing or planned activities on environmental monitoring and assessment in the UNECE region.

Item 8: Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Annex

REGISTRATION

According to the revised accreditation procedures, all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to fill in a registration form in English. It can be downloaded from the web site <http://www.unece.org/stats/geneva.e.html> .

The completed registration form should be sent to Ms. E. Mary, UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (e-mail: elisabeth.mary@unece.org, fax: +41 22 917 06 30) as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the beginning of the session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring.

Registered participants will have to pick up their identification badges for entry in the Palais des Nations before the meeting at the Security and Safety Section's Pass and Identification Unit. This is located at the Villa des Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (the map can be consulted on the above-mentioned web site). The Unit is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.