



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CEP/AC.13/2005/10
15 February 2006

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Committee on Environmental Policy

UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development
Geneva, 14 December 2005

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU

1. The Bureau of the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development held its first, organizational meeting on 14 December 2005 in Geneva. The representatives of the following countries Members of the Bureau participated: Canada, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Norway and Serbia and Montenegro.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Andreas Karamanos, Greece.
3. Participating as observers were representatives of regional environmental centres, European ECO-Forum and Environmental and School Initiatives (ENSI).

Input for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (October 2007, Belgrade)

4. Pursuant to a discussion by the Steering Committee, the Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare for its second meeting a proposal on a segment on education for sustainable development (ESD) for the Belgrade conference. The proposal should be based on the outcomes of the discussion of the Steering Committee.
5. The Bureau discussed the preparation of possible background materials for the segment. In this respect, it requested the secretariat to prepare a template for “good practices in ESD” for its second meeting. It also agreed to discuss further modalities for developing a first report with

an overview of progress in implementing the UNECE Strategy for ESD. ENSI expressed its readiness to contribute to this activity.

Financial issues

6. The Bureau agreed that it was rather urgent to secure funds for the implementation of the work plan and, in particular, activities that would contribute to the Belgrade Conference. Canada informed the Bureau that it planned to explore the possibility of making a financial contribution. Italy confirmed that it planned to financially support the programme in 2006 and 2007. The need for financial assistance of countries with economies in transition was underlined.

Dates for the next meeting

7. It was agreed that the second meeting of the Bureau would take place at the end of February 2006 back to back with the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Working Group of Senior Officials. The secretariat will confirm the dates in due time.