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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Special session
Geneva, 13–15 October 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

To be held in the Palais des Nations
starting on Monday, 13 October 2008, at 10 a.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Roundtable on partnerships with the private sector
3. Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process
4. Review of the programme of work: environmental monitoring, building, capacity and partnerships, and cross-sectoral activities
5. Reporting on programme performance
6. Any other business
7. Closing of the special session

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available on the Committee’s website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/welcome.html>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat *no later than two weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by 30 September 2008* – either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or e-mail (evelina.rioukhina@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Committee’s website). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1499.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 13 October 2008

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda (10 – 10.30 a.m.)

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) is expected to adopt the agenda for its special session (ECE/CEP/149).

Item 2: Roundtable on partnerships with the private sector (10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

The Committee and representatives of the private sector will have an interactive discussion and exchange of opinions on possible ways to engage the private sector so as to enhance its involvement in the UNECE, CEP and “Environment for Europe” (EfE) frameworks (ECE/CEP/2008/9).

Item 3: Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process (3 – 6 p.m.)

To follow up the decision of the UNECE member States taken at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007) in the Belgrade Ministerial Declaration to undertake a reform of the EfE process, the Committee discussed the modalities of the reform at its fifteenth session (21–23 April 2008, ECE/CEP/148) and the Extended Bureau meeting (23–24 June 2008, ECE/CEP/2008/7), and developed the draft EfE reform plan (ECE/CEP/2008/8).

The Committee will be invited to discuss the draft reform plan, with the aim of finalizing it at the current session for submission to the Economic Commission for Europe in spring 2009 for its endorsement.

Tuesday, 14 October 2008

Item 3 (continued): Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Item 4: Review of the programme of work: environmental monitoring, building capacity and partnerships, and cross-sectoral activities

(a) Environmental monitoring (3 – 3.30 p.m.)

The Committee will be invited to consider and approve the programme of work on environmental monitoring and assessment as prepared by the ninth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2008/6).

(b) Building capacity and partnerships (3.30 – 4.15 p.m.)**(i) Partnerships with the private sector**

As a follow-up to the roundtable (agenda item 2), the Committee will be invited to discuss further steps for developing cooperation with and enhancing involvement of the private sector in the UNECE, CEP and EfE frameworks.

(ii) Environment and Security Initiative

The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and UNECE. The Initiative builds on the combined strengths and field presence of the lead organizations to perform three key functions: (a) assessment and monitoring of environment and security linkages; (b) capacity-building and institutional development; and (c) integration of environmental and security concerns and priorities in international and national policymaking. The secretariat will provide information on the ongoing contributions of UNECE to the Initiative, which is mainly aimed at strengthening the implementation of the UNECE regional environmental conventions (CRP. 1). The Committee may wish to provide comments on actions taken.

(c) Cross-sectoral activities (4.15 – 5 p.m.)**(i) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme**

The secretariat will briefly inform the Committee about preparations for the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment to be held in 2009 (ECE/AC.21/2008/2 – EUR/08/5068055/2). The Committee may wish to put forward questions related to the organization of the event.

(ii) Environment and Health

The Committee will be informed about preparations for the High-level Meeting on Environment and Health to be held in Italy in 2009, including its agenda and possible outcome. The Committee may wish to take note of this information.

Item 5: Reporting on programme performance (5 – 5.45 p.m.)

The Committee will be invited to discuss the reporting related to the 2006/2007 budget year for each accomplishment, the results achieved and lessons learned, including areas needing adjustment, in view of the preparation of the CEP Programme of Work for 2009–2010 for adoption at its next session in 2009.

Item 6: Any other business (5.45 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

Delegations may wish to raise any other points relevant to the meeting.

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

**Item 3 (continued): Reform of the “Environment for Europe” process
(10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 3 – 5.30 p.m.)**

Item 7: Closing of the special session (5.30 – 6 p.m.)

The Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, will sum up the Committee’s conclusions and decisions. In consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat will finalize the report of the special session for circulation to the member countries. For advance copies, please visit the CEP website (<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/>).
