



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 June 2015

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

##### Seventeenth session

Geneva, 7 and 8 September 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

##### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 a.m. on  
Monday, 7 September 2015

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Working Group.
3. Reporting mechanism for the review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region.
4. Evaluation report on the Shared Environmental Information System for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
5. Data and information of the Shared Environmental Information System.
6. Other business.

#### II. Annotations

According to its 2015 terms of reference (ECE/EX/28),<sup>1</sup> the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment is open to all member States of the United

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<sup>1</sup> The terms of reference were adopted by the ECE Executive Committee at its seventy-sixth meeting, in March 2015.



Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Members of the Working Group are officials in ECE countries dealing with environmental monitoring and assessment. The Working Group is mandated to involve experts from statistical agencies, relevant services and major groups in its activities.

International forums and networks — such as the European Environment Agency (EEA), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, relevant multilateral environmental agreements (especially those of ECE), the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development — are also invited to participate.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Working Group will be invited to adopt the agenda for its seventeenth session, as set out in the present document.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Working Group**

The secretariat will summarize the outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Working Group (Istanbul, 16–17 April 2015), on the basis of the draft meeting report.

## **3. Reporting mechanism for the review of progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region**

At its sixteenth session, the Working Group considered a proposal by the secretariat for a reporting mechanism for the review of progress in establishing and operating the pan-European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) by ECE member countries. It had agreed that the concept needed to be further developed and tested, and had requested members from Armenia, Austria, Georgia, Finland, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join a small group and work closely with the secretariat, EEA and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia to that end.

At its seventeenth meeting the Working Group will be invited to reflect on the proposal of the small group and to discuss how to implement the reporting mechanism.

## **4. Evaluation report on the Shared Environmental Information System for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

The Working Group was mandated by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) to prepare an evaluation report for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) on progress made by the pan-European countries in establishing SEIS. An initial assessment report should be presented to CEP at its twenty-first session in October 2015.

The secretariat will present an evaluation of the ECE countries' performance in establishing SEIS. The evaluation will be prepared based on the SEIS performance rating contained in

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<sup>2</sup> Meeting documents for the seventeenth session are available on the ECE website from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39929#/>.

the reporting mechanism. For each country the performance will be measured for each of the 67 data sets the Working Group agreed to include in the pan-European SEIS at its sixteenth session.

The country sheets presenting the evaluation should be shared with countries for their review prior to the seventeenth session.

The Working Group will be invited to discuss the secretariat's evaluation and on that basis to prepare its own evaluation of country performance in SEIS establishment for submission to CEP.

## **5. Data and information of the Shared Environmental Information System**

The Working Group agreed at its sixteenth session on the first group of data sets to be included in the pan-European SEIS and implemented by all ECE countries before the end of 2015. Further to that agreement, the Working Group is expected to consider further data sets for inclusion in the pan-European SEIS for implementation by ECE countries during 2016. Those data should be relevant to measure progress under any of the priority areas agreed upon at the sixteenth session: air pollution; climate change; chemicals and waste; biodiversity; water; land and soil; energy; and green economy.

While discussing the new data sets for SEIS inclusion, the Working Group should consider the interim results of ongoing developments related to work on data flows and the existing subregional SEIS reporting mechanisms, etc. The secretariat will facilitate the provision of information on the ongoing developments.

## **6. Other business**

The Working Group will be informed about the proposal by the Group of Friends of SEIS on the organization and shape of the regular process of environmental assessment in the ECE region, and the role proposed for the Working Group in that process. It will be further informed about the proposal of the secretariat for possible ways to streamline the work of the Working Group and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, as well as potentially incorporating the responsibilities of the Group of Friends of SEIS, with a view to enhancing the coordination of activities and reinforcing the work on environmental monitoring and assessment.

## **III. Organization of work**

More detailed information on the organization of work for the seventeenth session will be released closer to the meeting time.

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