

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE BUREAU OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE TRANSPORT,
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)**

23 October 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

I. PARTICIPATION

1. The eleventh meeting of THE PEP Bureau, held on 23 October 2009, Geneva was attended by: Mr. Shkelquim Memaj (Albania), Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria), Ms. Hristina Mleva (Bulgaria), Mr. Jiri Bendl (Czech Republic), Ms. Nadine Asconchilo (France), Ms. Manana Juruli and Mr. Mikheil Tushishvili (Georgia), Mr. Kilian Frey (Germany), Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Ms. Ursula Ulrich-Voegtlin (Switzerland), Mr. Mihail Kochubovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Ms. Lisa Brodey (United States). The Bureau meeting was chaired by Ms. Julie Ng-A-Tham (Netherlands). The secretariat was represented by UNECE Transport Division, UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, and by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

II. WORKPLAN AND TIMELINE

2. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the Steering Committee discussions and the accompanying documentation, a detailed programme of work with timelines. This should be prepared in line with the standard programme of work used by UNECE, showing work accomplished over the previous years (2009–2010) and expected outputs in the forthcoming years (2010–2011). A draft programme of work should be circulated amongst the Bureau members, agreed at the Bureau's next meeting and submitted to the Steering Committee at its eighth session in 2010.

III. FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

3. The Bureau agreed to propose ideas for a side-event at the upcoming Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (10–12 March 2010, Parma, Italy). It was suggested to make use of the Conference website and to propose it be a green conference by encouraging participants to use environmentally-friendly modes to travel to the Conference and to link the website to THE PEP to publicize this message. The side-event should show what THE PEP had achieved and sought out links with existing programmes and other side-events.

4. Possible topics for the side-event included (a) the launch of the staffete on cycling and walking and (b) mobility management for children and schools. The representative of the United States pointed out that cycling was what Europe was known for and that THE PEP was a climate change initiative. This could be mentioned in the Conference's first day, which was on climate change, while the children's mobility management could be on the second day, which focused on children's environment and health.

5. Bureau members agreed to approach their ministers to seek ways to raise awareness of THE PEP through interventions made on related issues. Other options included an exhibition or a booth with an electric bike or a baton, or playing the film from the Third High-level Meeting. The Bureau agreed to communicate further on this by e-mail.

IV. MONITORING

6. The Bureau felt that monitoring progress made at the national level was an important role of the Steering Committee. The Bureau requested the secretariat to develop a draft questionnaire for Member States to determine the level of implementation of THE PEP activities and progress made at the national level in terms of attaining the Amsterdam Goals. The suggestion was made to use similar experience under the WHO Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Rivers and Lakes and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the UNECE programme on education for sustainable development. The questionnaire should not be overly burdensome for Member States and should focus on issues linked to the Amsterdam Goals. A draft of the questionnaire would be presented to the Bureau for discussion at its next meeting.

V. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

7. The Bureau discussed the elements for a communications strategy presented to the Committee and agreed to make better use of public information professionals at UNECE and WHO. A draft communication strategy would be submitted to the Bureau at its next meeting, with a clear timeline for the coming four years and clearly designated tasks for Member States and Bureau members. It was suggested to draw on the experience of young journalists associated with the preparation of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment and to request assistance in developing a communication strategy for THE PEP.

8. The Bureau requested the secretariat to design and print an attractive brochure on THE PEP, in three languages, reflecting the decisions, new directions and priority goals agreed in the Amsterdam Declaration. It was important to raise awareness among policymakers across the three sectors, including transport planners. A draft brochure or flyer should be sent to the Bureau members for comments and should be published in early 2010.

VI. FINANCIAL ISSUES

9. It was agreed that the secretariat would draft a proposal on guidelines for the financing of participants to THE PEP Steering Committee, the Bureau and related meetings and workshops and present it at the next meeting of the Bureau.

10. The Bureau also reiterated the request of the Committee for the secretariat to prepare a circular letter to all Member States (ministries of transport, health and environment or other focal points) requesting funding for the forthcoming period.

VII. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

11. It was proposed that the next meeting of the Bureau take place in Skopje in conjunction with the THE PEP staffette workshop on institutional conditions for policy integration in transport, health and environment sectors (June 2010), and back to back with a meeting of the friends of THE PEP Partnership. The secretariat was entrusted to follow up on this proposal.

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