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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

# AMSTERDAM DECLARATION

## Making THE Link:

Transport choices for our health,  
environment and prosperity



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# Making THE Link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity

**WE, THE MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES** of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the European Region, attending the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on 22 and 23 January 2009 in Amsterdam,

Aware of the challenges posed by the current global financial crisis that require a proactive and integrated policy approach, and recognizing the significant role of investment in environment- and health-friendly transport in the creation of new economic and employment opportunities,

Underlining the fact that investment in environment- and health-friendly transport helps to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby promoting healthier societies and contributing to the achievement of global commitments to mitigate the negative effects of climate change,

Welcoming the progress that has been achieved in the European Region on the integration of transport, health and environment policies, in particular through **the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)**, launched in 2002 on the basis of the UNECE Vienna Declaration on Transport and Environment (1997) and the WHO London Charter on Transport, Environment and Health (1999), and its activities at international level, as well as through initiatives of Member States;

## THE PEP Priority Goals

1. **AGREE** to intensify our work aimed at achieving safe, efficient, environment- and health-friendly transport in order to reverse unsustainable trends and to contribute to meeting global responsibilities;
2. **CONVINCED** that THE PEP, with its integrated policy approach, should be used as an instrument to stimulate investment in energy-efficient and low-emission vehicles and transport technologies, environment- and health-friendly modes of transport and infrastructure, such as for public transport, cycling and walking, as well as accessibility and mobility management;
3. **COMMIT** ourselves to adopting integrated policies towards the attainment of four pan-European priority goals:

**Priority Goal 1: to contribute to sustainable economic development and stimulate job creation through investment in environment- and health-friendly transport** by directing investment towards the development of transport infrastructure that promotes safety, environment and health and has the highest job creation potential, including rail and light rail; clean and efficient public transport, efficient intermodal connections; safety measures in road transport; and infrastructure for active and environmentally friendly transport;

**Priority Goal 2: to manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system** by promoting mobility management schemes for businesses, schools, leisure activities, communities and cities, raising awareness of mobility choices by improving the coordination between land use and transport planning and promoting the use of information technology;

**Priority Goal 3: to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise** by supporting a shift in the vehicle fleet towards zero- or low-emission vehicles and fuels based on renewable energy; promoting a shift towards clean transport modes and fostering electric mobility as well as eco-driving;

**Priority Goal 4: to promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport** by designing and modernizing urban areas and human settlements to improve the conditions for safe and physically active mobility, including infrastructure for walking and cycling, and efficient and accessible public transport, particularly focused on vulnerable groups such as children and persons with reduced mobility;

## Making THE Link: THE PEP work plan (2009-2014)

4. **UNDERTAKE** to strengthen THE PEP as an inspiring, innovative and effective platform, building bridges that make the Transport, Health and Environment Link (THE Link), in particular by:
  - integrating policies on transport, health and environment;
  - exchanging knowledge on research, policies and good practices;
  - setting the global agenda in supporting environment- and health-friendly transport and achievement of THE PEP priority goals;
  - supporting the implementation of local actions on transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity;
  - strengthening cooperation within and among countries, including among local levels of government, research institutes, nongovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, taking particular account of the needs of interested countries in eastern Europe, the Caucasus, central Asia and south-eastern Europe;
5. **COMMIT** ourselves to work towards achievement of THE PEP priority goals using THE PEP work plan (2009–2014) (see Annex), focusing on the following measures:
  - developing a platform to attract and support investment in environment- and health-friendly transport;
  - building capacity for the integration of transport, health and environment policy;
  - sharing and disseminating good practice, in line with THE PEP priority goals;
  - facilitating the implementation of actions at local, national and regional levels;
  - supporting international advocacy and cooperation projects to promote best practice in sustainable urban transport;
  - enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms for implementation of the THE PEP priority goals and work plan;

## THE PEP Implementation Mechanisms

6. **AGREE** to achieve THE PEP priority goals by means of national transport, health and environment action plans (NTHEAPs):  
NTHEAPs could be developed and implemented by making use of existing mechanisms, plans and programmes in the field of transport, health and environment or by building on national processes across the three sectors; countries should develop initiatives and strategies that best suit the needs of their citizens and the capabilities of their administrations, taking account of different socioeconomic situations; in doing so, they should address transport-related health and environmental impacts and increase transport efficiency, as well as set targets and timetables for implementation; THE PEP Steering Committee, in cooperation with THE PEP secretariat, should develop guidance to assist in the formulation of NTHEAPs;
7. **ALSO AGREE** to facilitate communication and exchange of experiences among interested countries, by launching THE PEP "relay race" (or "*staffette*"), as a voluntary mechanism: the "relay race" will foster the commitment of countries and stimulate action, political leadership and international cooperation; participating countries will demonstrate how to put THE PEP into practice through the implementation of integrated policies and projects at national and local levels and will share successful experiences with participating countries through collaboration and joint activities; interested countries, in cooperation with THE PEP secretariat, should develop practical arrangements for the organization of a first "relay race";
8. **DECIDE** to further strengthen the effectiveness of THE PEP by establishing THE PEP Partnership to support the implementation of THE PEP work plan. This Partnership will make expertise available to countries for:
  - the development and implementation of NTHEAPs;
  - the strengthening of capacity for the integration of transport, health and environment policies;
  - the exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries; specific proposals for the establishment and functioning of THE PEP Partnership will be prepared by interested countries and other stakeholders in cooperation with THE PEP secretariat;

## THE PEP Institutional Framework

9. **UNDERLINE** the need to strengthen collaboration between THE PEP and the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) in order to stimulate synergies between these international processes, in particular by contributing to the achievement of the CEHAPE regional priority goals;
10. **UNDERTAKE** to allocate the necessary financial and/or in-kind resources to ensure implementation of THE PEP work plan and its implementation mechanisms through a system of voluntary contributions, thus guaranteeing the sustainability of the mandated activities; THE PEP Steering Committee, in cooperation with THE PEP secretariat, should prepare appropriate proposals;

11. **CONFIRM** the role and mandate of THE PEP Steering Committee and its Bureau, and request them to develop proposals and make necessary arrangements to refine and adjust THE PEP work plan in line with newly arising needs and opportunities, as well as to establish the newly agreed implementation mechanisms (i.e., NTHEAPS, THE PEP Partnership and the “relay race”);
12. **REQUEST** UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe to continue to provide secretariat services to THE PEP and **COMMIT OURSELVES** to continue supporting them in this endeavour;
13. **AGREE** to monitor, through the Steering Committee at its annual sessions, progress in the implementation of THE PEP work plan, as well as of the newly established implementation mechanisms described above;
14. **RECOGNIZE** that the question of a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health has not yet been resolved and that further exploratory work should be considered, for example, in the light of newly emerging issues;
15. **DECIDE** to convene a fourth high-level meeting no later than 2014, to review and report on progress achieved in the implementation of THE PEP work plan, to renew or modify THE PEP priority goals and to plan future activities.

## THE PEP work plan (2009–2014) to support national action and international cooperation

- a. Develop a platform to attract and support investments in environment- and health-friendly transport**
  - develop and disseminate the evidence to demonstrate the economic soundness of investments in environment- and health-friendly transport;
  - carry out advocacy activities with the broader community of stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations;
  - establish partnerships with international financial institutions towards the development of agreed criteria to guide investments in environment- and health-friendly transport;
- b. Build capacity for better integration of transport, health and environment policy**
  - support twinning programmes between administrations in countries in western and eastern Europe, the Caucasus, central Asia and south-eastern Europe in transport, health and environment, including the exchange of experts and civil servants, to provide opportunities for cross-fertilization and capacity-building;
  - support the development of training packages and capacity-building events (e.g. summer schools, grants, scholarships, distance learning systems) aimed at civil servants and experts from different sectors and countries, to provide opportunities to develop a common understanding of challenges, solutions, and opportunities and means for policy integration and intersectoral collaboration;
- c. Share and disseminate good practice in environment- and health-friendly transport**
  - maintain, further develop and disseminate THE PEP Clearing House and THE PEP Toolbox;
  - organize workshops for information sharing and the exchange of good practice on sustainable urban transport, drawing lessons from the outcomes of the Cyprus, Moscow, Tbilisi, Telč and Chisinau workshops;
  - support the development of better information systems to produce improved transport, health and environment statistics for the Region, including on road traffic accidents, urban air quality, noise-emission and exposure data, and spatial information on transport and land-use planning;
- d. Facilitate the implementation of activities at local, national and regional levels**
  - develop, refine and assist in the implementation of tools to support environment and health impact assessments of transport policies, and quantify the economic costs of transport-related health effects;



- provide technical assistance to interested countries for the development and/or adaptation and implementation of national transport, health and environment action plans;
- provide technical assistance to interested countries with economies in transition in eastern Europe, the Caucasus, central Asia and south-eastern Europe in developing projects and identifying funding opportunities in order to attain more environment- and health-friendly and safer transport systems;

**e. Support international advocacy and cooperation projects to promote best practice and an integrated approach to policy-making in transport, health and environment**

- explore the potential to use THE PEP as a model for other regions on sharing experience and good practice, when requested, possibly beginning with urban Asia, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, Bangkok and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, focusing on sustainable urban transport, with particular attention on urban air quality, noise, congestion and accidents;
- strengthen collaboration with the European Commission, international financial institutions, and other international fora, as well as nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, towards achieving THE PEP priority goals;
- further strengthen collaboration with other pan-European processes relevant to THE PEP and actively contribute to the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe and its implementation;

**f. Enhance monitoring and reporting mechanisms for implementation**

- support the development of a mechanism for monitoring of and reporting on progress achieved at national and international levels in implementing the commitments made at the Third High-level Meeting;
- develop a mechanism to allow countries to monitor and report on the implementation of THE PEP work plan;
- monitor trends and developments on pan-European and global levels, in particular by investigating emerging issues in transport, health and environment.



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