

Report of the 35th Meeting of the Bureau for the implementation of the Transport, Health and
Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

(2-3 May 2019, Malta)

I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The thirty-fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) was held in an extended format, on 2-3 May 2019, at the University of Malta in Valletta, hosted by the government of Malta.
2. The Bureau meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, France, Georgia, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland.
3. In addition, representative of the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC) attended the meeting.
4. THE PEP Secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin and Ms. Virginia Fusé (UNECE Environment Division), Mr. Francesco Dionori (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), and Ms. Nino Sharashidze (WHO/Europe).
5. The Bureau Chair, Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria) opened the meeting and thanked the Maltese organizers for the hospitality and excellent organization. The Bureau was warmly welcomed by the representative of the Ministry for Health of Malta.
6. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the Secretariat (Secretariat note 01).

II. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS BY THE 16TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND OF THE WORK OF THE DRAFTING GROUP

7. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that at its sixteenth session, the Steering Committee of the THE PEP took the following decisions and:
 - a) Requested the drafting group, established by the Bureau, to prepare a revised version of the draft Vienna declaration. To this end the Bureau was recommended to organize at least one meeting of the drafting group so that the extended Bureau could finalize the draft by July 2019;
 - b) Mandated the drafting group to prepare the draft work-plan for the period 2019–2024 and requested the extended Bureau to finalize it by July 2019;
 - c) Recommended that all Bureau members join the drafting group;
 - d) Decided that the pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion and the Executive Summary for policymakers on Eco-driving framework requirements and recommendations should be the annexes to the declaration;
 - e) Invited member States to consider, in preparation for the High-level Meeting, the possibility of creating new Partnership proposals and initiate them during the High-level Meeting.

8. The Chair informed the Bureau that the first meeting of the drafting group, including members of the Bureau, was hosted by the Belgian Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment on 6-7 March in Brussels.
9. The drafting group elaborated the second draft of the Vienna declaration.
10. The drafting group tasked the Secretariat to refine the draft for circulation to the member States through the permanent missions in Geneva in view of further negotiations during the extended Bureau meeting in Valletta, Malta, on 2-3 May 2019.

III. DRAFT DECLARATION

11. The Chair presented the revised structure of the draft Vienna declaration including five chapters and five annexes. Representatives of member States welcomed the new structure and noted that it was clear and understandable as it was constructed in a way of answering the major questions: “WHY do we need to take actions?”; “WHAT should we do to make changes?” and “HOW should we implement the planned activities?”.
12. The Secretariat presented the revised text of the draft declaration. The Bureau discussed in details the text, chapter by chapter and made a number of comments and amendments, among them:
 - a) the text should be further shortened
 - b) the priority Goals should be reordered
 - c) the text should emphasize the progress achieved and highlight those challenges that still exist
 - d) when mentioning “transport emission”, the type of transport should be specified (inland, urban or all forms of transport)
 - e) to better illustrate the dynamics of the process it was suggested to use the following phrases: “our efforts were started from the 90s”; “now we are at the crossroads”; “we have choices”; “we are facing the long term transformation and today we have momentum”; “this is a decade plan”
 - f) the data provided should be for the pan-European region
 - g) it should be very clear to whom these messages are addressed
 - h) the main challenges, including seven headlines (ambient air pollution, traffic noise; carbon dioxide emissions from transport; physical inactivity; socioeconomic disparities; road traffic injuries; economic inefficiency) that the member States are facing should be clearly provided in the preamble.
13. Furthermore, the Bureau entrusted the Partnership on Cycling to solve the following elements in square brackets under the title “Paving the way to healthy and active mobility” - “to significantly increase the safety of cyclists and pedestrians in every country in the region and [to significantly reduce] [at least halve] the [numbers] [rate] of fatalities and the [number] of serious injuries in the region as a whole”.
14. Moreover, the Partnership should revise the corresponding part of the draft Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion to reflect the text in the draft declaration and should submit the revised draft to the Secretariat in time for the meeting of the drafting group.
15. The participants agreed to hold one more meeting of the drafting group to advance the drafting of the Vienna declaration before the Bureau meeting in Tbilisi in July. The Dutch delegate proposed to host the next drafting group meeting in The Hague on 6-7 June.

16. The Bureau entrusted the Secretariat to revise the draft declaration and circulate it as soon as possible, to enable the Secretariat to compile inputs prior to The Hague meeting.
17. The Bureau members further underlined the importance of receiving the draft declaration through the official channels so that all concerned Ministries could be involved. To this end the Bureau tasked the Secretariat to send the draft declaration to the permanent missions in Geneva after the drafting group meeting in The Hague.

IV. DRAFT PROGRAMME AND LOGISTICS OF THE FIFTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

18. The Chair recalled that the Fifth High-level Meeting would take place at the United Nations Office at Vienna and that the three concerned Austrian ministers would send an invitation letter to their counterparts by the end of May. This letter would be followed by the invitation letter from the ECE Executive Secretary and the WHO/Europe Regional Director.
19. The representative of Austria further presented the draft programme of the High-level Meeting which would be preceded by a special session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP on Monday, 21 October and followed by a session focusing on implementation on Thursday, 24 October. The High-level Meeting would consist of ministerial and general segments - the high level ministerial segments would take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 October and in the morning of Wednesday, 23 October.
20. During the event there would be opportunities for side events and exhibitions as well as bilateral meetings.
21. The host country underlined the importance of interactive format of all segments. The programme would be focused on the achieved results of THE PEP as well as future activities.
22. The Bureau discussed the programme and made the following observations:
 - a) The challenges for 2030 should be clearly identified and linked with THE PEP;
 - b) The ministerial segment could cover four panel discussion with possible topics on: a) challenges and visions; b) main elements for THE PEP strategy; c) achievements of the existing Partnerships as well as initiating new possible Partnerships and d) a session on investment in the future/sustainable economic development;
 - c) The involvement of local authorities would be important;
 - d) Possible key note speakers for the ministerial segment, among others, could be representatives of the European Environment Agency (EEA), International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and the youth; It was recommended to have a keynote speech on happiness.
23. The Chair invited member States to identify possible key note speakers and provide the Secretariat with their names. He encouraged member States to consider female speakers.
24. The Bureau further discussed possible side events and the Secretariat provided the information about organizations who had already expressed their interest to hold side events during the High-level Meeting.
25. The Bureau requested the Secretariat that the programme of the High-level Meeting be a part of the invitation letter which would be sent on behalf of the ECE Executive Secretary and the WHO/Europe Regional Director.

26. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a short brochure as a background to the High-level Meeting.

V. THE PEP DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2019–2024

27. The Secretariat presented a draft work-plan for 2019-2024 and encouraged the Bureau to discuss the structure of the work-plan vis-à-vis the draft declaration, THE PEP Priority Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
28. The Bureau noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development did not include the goal on transport which was a big gap but at the same time, it could be a good opportunity for THE PEP activities. The Bureau suggested to cluster the Sustainable Development Goals to the Priority Goals and requested the Secretariat to revise the work-plan with a direct links with the goals.
29. Member States were asked to identify lead countries for the activities listed in the work-plan. The Bureau underlined the importance of defining the timetable and specifying in what way countries could contribute to the implementation process.
30. The Bureau agreed that a comprehensive pan-European strategy on transport, health and environment should be developed by 2022 while the development of proposals for a possible legal instrument in line with the vision and Priority Goals, should be finalized in 2024.
31. The Bureau suggested that the lead countries of existing Partnerships would be invited at the High-level Meeting to present the major results achieved as well as the two-year work-plan for further activities. The Secretariat was asked to include this proposal in the invitation letter to be sent from the ECE Executive Secretary and the WHO/Europe Regional Director along with inviting countries to launch new partnerships at the High-level Meeting in line with the Priority Goals and SDGs.
32. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the next Steering Committee session after the High-level Meeting would take place from 29 June to 01 July 2020 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The Chair suggested, and the Bureau agreed to hold a Bureau meeting in the first quarter of 2020.
33. A representative of Belarus presented ongoing activities of her country in integrating health and environment aspects into the transport policy. She expressed an interest to share the Serbian experience in this field. In response, a representative of Serbia invited Belarus for one-day meeting to share the Serbian knowledge and practice in the process of developing National Transport, Health and Environment Plans (NTHEAPs). In connection with this, Belarus proposed to host a workshop or a Relay Race in 2020.
34. The Bureau welcomed the proposal of Belarus.

VI. THE PEP WORK 2014–2019 AND ITS INPUT TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION

35. A representative of Austria, co-leader with France of the Partnership, updated the Bureau on the pan-European master plan for cycling promotion. The Steering Committee had decided that the master plan should be annexed to the declaration and be presented at the High-level Meeting for adoption.

36. A representative of Austria further presented the Policy recommendations for Eco-Driving. At its sixteenth session, the Steering Committee had decided to annex the executive summary to the draft declaration.
37. The Bureau welcomed the information and discussed the related text in the draft declaration.
38. The Secretariat and a representative of the Russian Federation presented the ongoing work on the handbook on sustainable transport and urban planning that would be one of the annexes to the draft declaration. The Bureau was invited to provide comments before 16 May.
39. The Secretariat updated the Bureau about the study on jobs in green and healthy transport that would also be presented at the High-level Meeting as an official document. The outcomes of the study would be reflected in the declaration. The final draft of the study would be finalized and shared with the Bureau before the Bureau meeting in Tbilisi.

VII. PREPARATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS TOWARDS VIENNA

40. The Bureau members agreed that the next meetings in preparation of the conference in Vienna would be called “Preparatory Meeting to the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment”. In this way, it would be clearer that meetings would be open to all representatives of member States wishing to attend.
41. A representative of the Georgian government confirmed the readiness to host the next meeting. The Preparatory meeting would be hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia in Tbilisi, on 2-3 July. The information circular would be prepared by the host country in cooperation with the Secretariat.
42. The Chair reminded the Bureau about the calendar of next events before the High-level Meeting – 6-7 June, the drafting group meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands; 2-3 July, Preparatory Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia.
43. The Chair noted that in the beginning of September the Russian Federation city of Kazan would host a workshop: "Smart urban mobility: opportunities of modern transport and information technologies use for improvement of safety and quality of transport services". The drafting group meeting could be organized back to back with the workshop, if necessary.
44. Before closing the meeting, the Chair reminded the Bureau members and other participants that the very last negotiations on the declaration could be possible on 21 October at the Special session of THE PEP Steering Committee in Vienna.