

Item 7 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Implementing the Paris Declaration:**

**Exploring new tools for the implementation of the Paris Declaration**

## **UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR) Programme**

### **Note by the secretariat**

This information is provided by the secretariat to inform the Bureau of the existence of the UNECE's Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme. The Bureau may wish to consider how the EPR programme and/or its structure and process could be useful in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and to explore specific related activities within THE PEP.

#### **What is an EPR?**

Following the successful initiation of the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for its members in 1991, European Environment Ministers requested UNECE at the Second Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in 1993 to undertake EPRs in UNECE countries that are not members of OECD.

An EPR is an assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments. The EPR is undertaken at the request of a country. There is an agreement on the structure of the report between UNECE and the reviewed country to meet its needs. Peer review of the report and of its recommendations is carried out by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy. The main objectives of the EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as for agriculture, energy, transport and health;
- To promote greater accountability to other countries and to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community.

#### **Health and Transport policy coverage in the EPR**

The EPR review team, when carrying out an environmental performance review, examines all relevant national and local environmental policy tools and institutional arrangements in place in the recent past and present. In this regard, strategic documents on health and transport which have an environmental component are analysed and mentioned in the report. In addition, the team reviews and reports on economic instruments in use in the country which may have an impact on environment policy including, highway fees, city charges, fuel tariffs, etc. regardless of there being an environment-earned component.

### **Issues included in the Health and Environment chapter**

The EPR is currently in its third cycle of reviews and it comprises a chapter on health and environment as did the first and second cycles. The chapter, which is developed with the framework of collaboration between the UNECE and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, addresses health risks associated with environmental factors and assesses progress towards the integration of environmental considerations in health policies. The chapter usually covers the following issues:

- **Status of human health**
  - Demographic data
  - Human health status of the population
- **Health risks associated with environmental factors and environmental causes of morbidity and mortality**
  - Air pollution (indoor and outdoor)
  - Water pollution (drinking water and bathing water)
  - Radiation
  - Noise and vibration (from road transport, railways, air transport and industrial enterprises)
  - Chemical safety (including industrially contaminated areas)
  - Food safety (pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals in food)
  - Housing (radon, paintings, use of construction materials and chemicals)
  - Climate change and health
- **Occupational health and safety**
- **Assessment of performance in:**
  - Legal framework
  - Strategies, programmes and plans
  - Regulatory, economic, fiscal and information measures
  - Institutional framework: institutional responsibilities in environmental health issues; coordination of public health institutions
  - Monetary valuation of environmental impact on human health

In the third cycle, health impacts may be reviewed in two other chapters, i.e., waste and transport. These two topics examine pressures on health from waste and from different modes of transport and from transport infrastructure. In one case (Morocco—the first review carried out outside of the ECE region in collaboration with ECA), the air protection chapter mentioned two studies related to air pollution and its impact on health, in particular on children. However, experience shows that there is little in terms of country studies on these issues.

### **Issues included in the Transport and Environment chapter**

In the third cycle, transport appears as a standalone chapter but may also have references in other chapters. The chapter on transport reviews all transport modes (road, railway, airway, inland and maritime waterways, cycling, walking, pipelines) and all types of transport (passengers, freight, including transport of dangerous goods). The chapter usually covers the following issues:

- **Overview of transport sector and transport infrastructure**
- **Environmental pressures from different modes of transport and from transport infrastructure on:**
  - Air
  - GHG emissions
  - Water

- Land and soil
- Landscape
- Biodiversity
- Human health
- **Emission and fuel standards for vehicles**
- **Assessment of performance towards greening the transport sector:**
  - Transport policy and strategy, and the integration of environmental objectives to promote greening the transport sector
  - Legal framework for transport management and promotion of non-motorized mobility and public transport
  - Institutional framework: institutions responsible for transport management and their coordination/cooperation
  - Regulatory instruments and their application in the transport sector
  - Economic instruments to promote greening the sector (taxes, subsidies and tariffs)
  - Application of transport demand management at national and local levels
  - Mechanisms aimed at motivating technological improvements, supporting innovation, and promoting green investments by transport industries

Transport issues may also appear in the following chapters

- **Water management:** Management of water use and prevention of pollution, transport (inland and marine, if applicable)
- **Air protection:** pressures from transport
- **Waste:** transport of waste
- **Energy:**
  - Environmental pressures from Transportation of fossil fuels and energy use in transport (pipelines, railways, tankers, LPG terminals)
  - Energy intensity and efficiency by end-use (industry, transport, residential, commercial)
- **Biodiversity:** Land uptake (transport infrastructure)
- **Health:** Health risks associated with environmental factors and environmental causes of morbidity and mortality from Noise and vibration (from road transport, railways, air transport and industrial enterprises)

**Country coverage where a chapter on health and on transport is included in the review**

First cycle

<i>Country</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Transport</i>
Albania	X	
Armenia	X	
Azerbaijan	X	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	
Croatia	X	X
Georgia	X	X
Kazakhstan	X	
Kyrgyzstan	X	

<i>Country</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Transport</i>
Latvia	X	X (transport of oil products)
Lithuania	X	
Republic of Moldova	X	X
Romania	X	X
Slovenia	X	X
Tajikistan	X	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	X	X
Turkmenistan	X	
Ukraine	X	
Uzbekistan	X	
Yugoslavia	X	X

Morocco's health chapter follows the third cycle structure. The EPR review team will carry out the Third Environmental Performance Review for Georgia and will include both health and transport chapters.

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