



**Economic and Social
Council**

Dist.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.21/2006/10
EUR/06/THEPEPST/10
14 July 2006

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment
and Health

THE PEP Steering Committee

Fourth session

Geneva, 10–11 April 2006

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

1. At its fourth session, the Steering Committee for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) reviewed progress made in the accomplishment of its work programme since its last meeting in April 2005 and provided guidance on the programme's further implementation. Thereafter, the Steering Committee focused on the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health.
2. The session was attended by representatives from the following 23 countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Commission (EC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were also represented.
3. Participants were welcomed by Dr. Carlos Corvalan, Occupational and Environmental Health Department, WHO Headquarters, on behalf of Dr. Susanne Weber-Mosdorf, Assistant Director General, Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments, and by Mr. Patrice Robineau, Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary, UNECE.

GE.06-24109

4. On 12 April, the Bureau of the Steering Committee and the Task Force for the Development of a “Toolbox” on Transport, Environment and Health held their meetings. The report of the Bureau’s meeting is annexed to this document. The Task Force has made the report of its meeting available separately.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda of its fourth session as prepared by the secretariats of the UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (collectively referred to hereafter as “the secretariat”) in consultation with the Bureau (document ECE/AC.21/2006/1 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/1).

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Election of the Chair

6. The Steering Committee elected Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of the Division of Transport, Mobility, Human Settlements and Noise, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, Austria, as Chair of the fourth session. Mr. Thaler succeeded Mr. Nigel Dotchin, Head of the Transport Policy Coordination Branch, Department of Transport, and United Kingdom.

B. Election of the remaining members of the Bureau

7. The Steering Committee elected the following 12 Bureau members, who represented the three sectors and the different parts of the region:

(a) From the health sector: Mr. François André, Deputy Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and the Environment, Belgium; Ms. Hristina Mileva, Ministry of Health, Bulgaria; Ms. Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin, Head, Health and Environment Unit, Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland; Dr. Jaroslav Volf, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic;

(b) From the transport sector: Mr. Xavier Delache, Deputy Director, Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport, Housing, Tourism and the Sea, France; Mr. Vadim Donchenko, Deputy Director General, State Scientific and Research Institute of Road Transport (NIIAT), Russian Federation; Mr. Nigel Dotchin, Department for Transport, United Kingdom; Mr. Risto Saari, Senior Officer, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland;

(c) From the environment sector: Mr. Chuck Ashley, First Secretary, Environment, Science and Technology, Permanent Mission of the United States of America; Ms. Narin Panariti, Director, Policy, Integration and Legislation Division, Ministry of Environment, Albania; Mr. Robert Thaler, Head, Division of Transport, Mobility, Human Settlements and Noise, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, Austria; Ms. Nino

Tkhilava, Head, Integrated Environmental Management Department, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia.

8. The Steering Committee also thanked the following three outgoing Bureau members for their input: Ms. Zsuzsanna Bibok, Head, Department for Integrated Pollution Control, Ministry for Environment and Water, Hungary; Mr. David Hohman, Senior International Health Advisor, United States; and Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Vice Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Georgia.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU

9. The Steering Committee adopted the reports of its third session, held on 11–12 April 2005 (ECE/AC.21/2005/13 – EUR/05/5046206/13), and of the meeting of its Bureau held on 2 December 2005 (ECE/AC.21/2006/2 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/2 and Corr.1).

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

A. Progress reports and proposals for further action

10. The Steering Committee assessed progress made in the implementation of its work programme and provided guidance on future work. To this end, it considered the documentation prepared for the session, the recommendations of its Bureau and presentations made by Austria, Germany, Georgia, Switzerland and the secretariat.

(a) Clearing House on Transport, Environment and Health

11. The Committee was informed of the technical and substantive work undertaken by the Advisory Board and the secretariat during the pilot operation phase of the Clearing House (CH)¹ in 2005 as well as of the feedback received since the beginning of its launch for the general public in December 2005 (ECE/AC.21/2006/3 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/3).

12. The Committee congratulated the secretariat on the progress made and the added value provided by the CH in disseminating information across the region. It approved the planned activities and endorsed the proposal by the secretariat to extend the pilot phase through 2006 to allow further fine-tuning and improvements, based on feedback from users and experience with real-life operating conditions.

13. To maximize the added value of the CH, constant updating of the CH and uploading of new documents were considered necessary. The Steering Committee invited the secretariat to remind the national focal points to regularly update and supplement the information content of the site. In addition, the secretariat was invited to facilitate the uploading of information, increase

¹ www.thepep.org/CHWebSite.

links to existing databases, and consider providing an automated newsletter as well as a question-and-answer section. The Committee also encouraged the secretariat and the national focal points to increase the visibility of the CH further, including through:

- Establishing links to the CH website from relevant national websites, including those of transport, environment and health ministries;
- Disseminating information on the CH at relevant national and international events, including *inter alia* a thematic workshop on transport which the Finnish Presidency of the European Union (EU) will organize on 20–21 September as part of the “Health in all Policies” conference; and
- Increasing the number of documents available in Russian as well as the translation of Russian documents into English

14. The Committee noted that, while the CH has been largely automated, its upkeep requires resources on a permanent basis. So far it has been possible for the secretariat to support the development and implementation of the CH through extra-budgetary and in-kind assistance, but this possibility may cease to exist on a regular basis in the near future. Therefore, the resources specified in the background document ECE/AC.21/2006/3 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/3 are those necessary for the CH’s ongoing and sustainable functioning. Delegations agreed to consider means for sustainable and long-term funding of the CH, including voluntary donations, sharing of costs among all member countries, resources made available through the regular budgets of UNECE and WHO, or a combination thereof.

(b) Eco-driving project in Poland

15. The Committee welcomed the progress report on the Dutch eco-driving project in Poland as contained in informal document no. 1. The Dutch project followed up on similar activities carried out in Latvia. Its main objective was to integrate environmental considerations into the qualifications and training of professional drivers in Poland, with the aims of reducing the negative environmental effects of transport and enhancing road safety.

(c) Sustainable urban transport and land-use planning

16. The delegation of Georgia and the secretariat informed the Steering Committee of substantive, organizational and financial aspects of a workshop on sustainable urban transport and land-use planning which is scheduled to take place in Tbilisi on 18–20 October 2006 (ECE/AC.21/2006/4 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/4).

17. Georgia has proposed to host the workshop as an opportunity to exchange experiences and build national and local capacity to address urban transport and related environment and health issues that are of concern to it as well as to Armenia and Azerbaijan. The workshop will constitute a subregional (South Caucasus) follow-up to the joint workshop of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and THE PEP on “Implementing Sustainable Urban Travel Policies in Russia and Other CIS Countries” held in Moscow in 2004. It could be followed by subregional workshops in other countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) as needed.

To maximize synergies with other activities of THE PEP, the third day of the Tbilisi workshop will focus on the assessment of the health and environment impacts of urban transport in the subregion, contributing to the development of the Toolbox on Transport, Health and Environment (see section (f) below).

18. The Committee welcomed the Georgian proposal to host the workshop as well as the offers from Switzerland, the Netherlands and WHO to financially support its organization. It invited Georgia, the Bureau and the interested delegations to work together to develop a detailed programme for the workshop, which would reflect the priorities of Georgia and its neighbouring countries, as well as to identify speakers and case studies for the workshop. To maximize its value added, the Committee recommended that the workshop address policy issues in line with the mandate and work programme of THE PEP, such as promotion of policy integration and transport demand management, rather than focusing on technical questions. The Committee also encouraged the full involvement of Georgia's national and municipal authorities in the workshop. It invited the secretariat to coordinate and support the preparatory work.

19. The representative of UNEP highlighted synergies and opportunities for cooperation between the organization of the Tbilisi workshop and the preparation of a report for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, October 2007) on sustainable consumption patterns, with in-depth case studies of transport patterns in EECCA. The Committee also recommended that the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, international financial institutions (e.g. EBRD, the World Bank) and the European Commission be invited to take part in the workshop.

20. The Committee encouraged other delegations from EECCA and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) to consider hosting subregional workshops to address urban transport issues and invited them to inform the secretariat on the outcomes of the consultations among the three ministries.

21. The Committee welcomed the proposal to prepare a background report taking stock of the urban transport situation and the related environment and health impacts in Tbilisi as well as in other principal towns of the region. This report, together with the information and case studies on the development of urban transport in other parts of the region, would constitute useful reference material for national policymakers and municipal authorities as well as a tool for raising public awareness. The Committee recommended building the report on the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews and WHO data as well as the assessment of Europe's environment being prepared by the European Environment Agency for the Belgrade Conference. The Committee also stressed that the background material and outcomes and recommendations of the workshop would provide an input to the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health. They should also be made available through the CH and the Toolbox.

(d) Practical guidance on institutional arrangements and mechanisms for integrated policy- and decision-making

22. The Committee considered the project report that reviewed and analysed the current institutional practice for policy integration in the UNECE–WHO/Europe region, established on

the basis of a questionnaire survey, a review of relevant publications and the outcome of a workshop hosted by Germany (Berlin, 23–24 January 2006) (ECE/AC.21/2006/7 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/7). The Committee welcomed the project report and thanked Germany for organizing the workshop as a substantive contribution to the project's implementation.

23. The Committee proposed that the report be further substantiated with a more detailed description of national practice. Adding information on vertical integration, on legal frameworks in place and on lessons learned was also seen as useful. The Committee recommended producing a concise brochure for policymakers, building on the project report. Preparation of tailored advice and training material could constitute further follow-up work.

24. The Committee thanked the delegation of Belgium for its pledge of a financial contribution to support the further project activities.

(e) Promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas

25. The Steering Committee welcomed the progress in promoting safe conditions for people walking and cycling in urban areas through the exchange and dissemination of good practices and through improving the assessment of health effects from cycling and walking. It emphasized the need to further clarify the costs and benefits of promoting non-motorized transport and agreed on the proposed next steps outlined in the background document (ECE/AC.21/2006/6 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/6).

26. The Committee also expressed interest in the possible synergy for advocating cycling and walking provided by the preparation of the WHO Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity to be held on 15–16 November 2006 in Istanbul.² To this end, delegations would be invited to attend the WHO Member States Intersectoral Consultation on Promoting Physical Activity (9–10 May 2006, Ljubljana) being held in preparation for the Ministerial Conference.

(f) The project “Transport-related health impacts and their costs and benefits, with particular focus on children”

27. The Steering Committee was informed of progress achieved in the follow-up work to the project on “Transport-related health impacts and their costs and benefits, with particular focus on children” (ECE/AC.21/2006/5 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/5), focusing on the development of “a toolbox for action on transport, environment and health”. The Committee recommended linking the Toolbox activity closely with other projects of THE PEP, including by disseminating it through the CH and supplementing it with the information on institutional arrangements for integrated policymaking and on sustainable urban transport development. The members of the Task Force were invited to confirm their membership and to clarify their contributions to the further implementation of the project.

² www.euro.who.int/obesity/conference/20060216_1.

28. As part of this agenda item, the Committee was updated on the progress made and the next steps in developing methods for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects in children with the support of the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Committee acknowledged the first steps taken in this activity as well as the need for further resources for achieving its objectives.

29. The Committee welcomed the progress made. Further practical guidance on health-impact assessment was deemed essential for dialogue with the transport sector. The Committee acknowledged that much work was still required in the field of economic valuation of transport-related effects. It invited the Task Force to take stock of the studies, which are already available. The Toolbox should also include existing policy appraisals, which assess, for instance, the effectiveness of “soft law” measures compared to legally binding ones in achieving sustainable transport. It also stressed that the Toolbox should provide detailed guidance and examples, including of the legal and administrative arrangements and costs that characterize the implementation of different measures and policies.

B. Resources for the implementation of the work programme of THE PEP

30. Based on a summary document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/AC.21/2006/8 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/8), the Committee was informed about the use of the financial and in-kind resources made available by donor countries for the implementation of the 2006–2007 work programme of THE PEP, as well as about the estimated need for additional extra budgetary funds. It was specified that the document did not quantify the provision of secretariat services by the UNECE and WHO to support the implementation of THE PEP. The secretariat also underlined that the funds reserved to support EECCA and SEE countries’ participation were nearly exhausted and that further resources were needed to allow them to take part in the preparatory process for the third High-level Meeting.

31. The Committee was informed that the letter sent to ministers of transport, environment and health in May 2005 with a proposal to subscribe to “shares” had not resulted in pledges of additional resources. The secretariat has nevertheless been able to raise some funds in addition to the voluntary donations already made.

32. The Committee stressed the importance of ensuring sustainable funding for the implementation of THE PEP, to the extent possible through regular budget funds. National focal points were invited to support the allocation of regular budget funds to THE PEP through appropriate UNECE and WHO Governing Bodies (e.g. the Committee on Inland Transport and Committee for Environmental Policy of UNECE and the World Health Assembly and Regional Committee of WHO). At the same time, the Committee acknowledged that voluntary donations and in-kind contributions remained necessary to finance activities that could not be carried out by regular budget staff, such as paying for expert advice and engaging consultants as well as covering the travel costs of EECCA and SEE participants in THE PEP meetings.

V. ENHANCING COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

33. Mr. Lutz Blank (EBRD) informed the Committee of relevant activities by EBRD, especially regarding investments in road and transport projects and their environmental impact assessment procedures. In carrying out environmental impact assessments, the EBRD also considers occupational health and safety, public health, community aspects and cultural heritage. Mr. Blank acknowledged, however, that while the assessment of environmental aspects was mainly based on available standards and methodologies, guidance on the evaluation of public health aspects was not as well established. Consequently, its further development was identified as a possible area for collaboration between EBRD and THE PEP. The Committee invited the secretariat to follow this up with EBRD.

VI. PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (2007)

34. The Committee provided guidance on the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health. It pronounced in particular on a number of proposals on the programme, date, venue and documentation of the Meeting that were formulated by the secretariat on the basis of the Bureau's recommendations (ECE/AC.21/2006/9 – EUR/06/THEPEPST/9).

35. The Committee agreed that the main objectives of the Meeting should be to:

- Strengthen Member States' commitment to greater integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level;
- Reinforce the role of THE PEP as the platform for promoting greater policy integration and sustainable transport development in the UNECE and WHO/Europe region;
- Reinvigorate the political commitment and impetus for the implementation of THE PEP and secure the necessary resources and support;
- Take stock of the development of sustainable transport and policy integration in the region in 1997–2007;
- Focus on the challenges faced by EECCA and SEE countries;
- Identify priorities for future work in transport, health and environment within THE PEP.

(a) The agenda of the High-level Meeting

36. The Committee supported the proposals formulated by the secretariat on the agenda for the High-level Meeting. It decided that the Meeting should focus on the following three main items:

- The progress achieved and the challenges encountered since the Vienna Conference on Transport and Environment held in 1997 in integrating transport, environment and health goals in the region and reducing the negative effects of transport on health and the environment;
- The policy response to date by the UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries, with a focus on assessing the first years of implementation of THE PEP (2002–2007): the activities carried out, the main difficulties met and the challenges ahead;
- Signing of a declaration to reinforce commitments to the process.

37. The Committee recommended the formulation of an overarching substantive theme or a “main message” for the High-level Meeting. Messages advocating free choice of mobility for all members of society – and putting a brake on the increasing dependence on cars and the related effects on health and the environment – were among those thought to capture well the main challenges for policymakers in the region. To meet these challenges, policymakers should opt for an integrated approach to policymaking and focus increasingly on managing the demand for transport. Consequently, the High-level Meeting could be invited to commit to a package of measures for promoting policy integration at the national level as well as for influencing citizens’ mobility patterns towards more sustainable modes. These commitments could be contained in the Ministerial Declaration. Meeting participants could also be invited to strengthen their commitments to THE PEP so as to enable it to continue supporting Member States in this endeavour. Some delegations proposed that the ministers could decide on the drafting of guidelines or other soft-law instruments for reinforcing the implementation of these commitments.

(b) Date and venue

38. The Committee decided to hold the third High-level Meeting in spring 2008 in order to allow more time for preparations. It emphasized the need to attract broad ministerial participation and recommended that the Meeting be called “Ministerial” rather than “High-level”. Input from city representatives and urban planners to the Meeting was also considered useful. Delegations were invited to inform the secretariat of their opportunities to host the Meeting.

(c) Documentation and preparatory process

39. The Committee entrusted the Bureau and other interested members of the Steering Committee with the preparation of the Meeting. The secretariat was invited to facilitate and coordinate the preparatory process and to identify input from consultants for some of the work. Delegations were invited to inform the secretariat of their interest in participating in the preparatory work. In addition to using electronic means of communication, the extended Bureau/preparatory committee will meet as often as necessary to finalize the documentation, preferably back-to-back with THE PEP project events and meetings. The first meeting of the extended Bureau/preparatory committee took place on the morning of 12 April (see annex), and subsequent meetings will be held, possibly back-to-back with the Tbilisi workshop of 18–20 October 2006, and in late 2006 or early 2007 at the WHO/Europe office in Rome.

40. The Committee concluded that the background documentation for the Meeting should include:

- A review of transport developments and their effects on health and the environment (1997–2007), identifying the remaining challenges. The review could also include estimates of the cost of not tackling the challenges, to the extent that this is possible. This review should build on recent information published by UNECE, WHO, ECMT and other international organizations and EU institutions as well as on the material being prepared for the Belgrade Conference;
- An appraisal of THE PEP implementation (2002–2007);
- A draft declaration with conclusions, concrete commitments and recommendations.

41. The Committee encouraged strengthening of the links between THE PEP and other relevant international processes in order to promote wider political support for it and to build momentum for the third High-level Meeting. Delegations were invited to use the major international meetings taking place in 2007 to report on THE PEP activities, including by incorporating statements on THE PEP into the declarations and other outcome documents of these events. These meetings include in particular:

- The fifteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (May 2007), which focuses on sustainable energy, air pollution and climate change issues;
- The meeting of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (May 2007);
- The midterm review of the implementation of the Budapest Conference commitments (June 2007); and
- The sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (October 2007).

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

42. The Committee was informed that WHO and UNECE will jointly organize the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week on 23–29 April 2007. The main theme is the safety of young road users. Delegations were invited to consider the opportunity provided by this event to highlight the contribution of THE PEP to increasing road safety in the region, particularly by promoting safer conditions for vulnerable road users through its project on promoting safe cycling and walking in urban areas.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

43. The secretariat has already tentatively scheduled the fifth session of the Steering Committee for 16–17 April 2007 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

* * *

Annex

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF
THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE**

Introduction

1. The Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met briefly on 12 April 2006 to follow up on the decisions taken by the Committee at its fourth session (10–11 April 2006). It decided on the actions to be taken for the preparation of the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, the time schedule for the preparatory process and the coordination with other international processes.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Robert Thaler, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria.
3. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Narin Panariti (Albania), Mr. François André (Belgium), Ms. Hristina Mileva (Bulgaria), Mr. Jaroslav Volf (Czech Republic), Mr. Xavier Delache (France), Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Ms. Ursula Ulrich (Switzerland), Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom) and Ms. Donna Lee (United States).
4. For the preparatory process of the High-level Meeting, participation in the Bureau meetings has been extended to other interested members of the Steering Committee. Ms. Eva Gleissenberg (Austria), Ms. Nino Thiklava and Ms. Manana Juruli (Georgia), Ms. Zsuzsanna Bibók (Hungary) and Mr. Jan Janiga (Slovak Republic) attended as well. The representative of Italy expressed interest in joining the extended Bureau but could not attend this meeting.
5. Ms. Francesca Racioppi and Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier (WHO) and Ms. Tea Aulavuo and Mr. Martin Magold (UNECE) participated on behalf of the secretariat of THE PEP.

Follow-up to the decisions of the Steering Committee on the
preparations for the third High-level Meeting (HLM)

6. The Bureau considered means to reach the objectives of the third HLM decided on by the Steering Committee.³ It appointed a number of delegations as lead countries for coordinating the development of proposals corresponding to the various objectives, as follows:

(a) In order to “*Strengthen the Member States’ commitment to greater integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level*”, the countries could be invited

³ See item V in the report of the fourth session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP. (ECE/AC.21/2006/10EUR/06/THEPEPST/10)

to develop national intersectoral institutional structures as well as strategies and action programmes for transport, health and environment. Lead countries: Belgium and the Czech Republic.

(b) *“Reinforce the role of THE PEP as the platform for promoting greater policy integration and sustainable transport development in the UNECE and WHO/Europe region” and “Reinvigorate the political commitment and impetus for the implementation of THE PEP and to secure the necessary resources and support to that effect”.*

- The Bureau acknowledged the role of THE PEP in supporting Member States’ action at the national level, notably by (a) providing guidance and building capacity on policy integration, demand management and urban transport issues; (b) providing information dissemination and exchange facilities through THE PEP Clearing House and the Toolbox; (c) promoting environmental and health impact assessments of transport policies, programmes and projects and the development of methods for economic valuation of the environment and health impacts of transport.
- The Bureau acknowledged the need to increase the possibilities for action and the impact of the work carried out within THE PEP by strengthening the political commitment to and ensuring the financial stability of this work. The Bureau proposed to explore the possibility of developing a sustainable mechanism to secure the necessary resources and to look into ways of “upgrading” the political commitment to the implementation of THE PEP (e.g. through the development of guidelines). Lead countries: France and the United Kingdom.

(c) *“Focus on the challenges faced by EECCA and SEE countries”.* The needs of EECCA and SEE countries should be fully taken into account throughout the preparatory process and brought forward at the third HLM. Lead countries: Albania, Bulgaria and Georgia.

(d) *“Identify priorities for future work in transport, health and environment within THE PEP”.* According to the Bureau, the focus should remain on areas where THE PEP could bring comparatively greater value added, such as demand management, the cost of inaction and the economic benefits of investing in sustainable transport. Lead countries: to be determined.

7. The Bureau recommended emphasizing in particular issues related to local governments, and it suggested inviting the mayor of a large city of the region as keynote speaker and encouraging participation by representatives of local governments. The Bureau also suggested considering the possibility of organizing side events during the third HLM – for example, to launch products resulting from the implementation of the workplan of THE PEP.

Preparatory process and schedule

8. The Bureau recommended kicking off the preparatory process for the third HLM by sending a letter to the three ministries concerned to

- (a) Inform them of the approximate date of the third HLM, its general objectives, the main background documents and the organization of the preparatory process;
- (b) Invite them to confirm the national focal points and to appoint new ones where necessary;
- (c) Inform them of the forthcoming consultation process about:
 - The possible development of an instrument/mechanism to secure the necessary resources for THE PEP implementation;
 - “Upgrading” the political commitment to the implementation of THE PEP.

9. The Bureau discussed the development of an appropriate feedback mechanism for collecting information about the implementation of THE PEP at the national level. This should enable reporting on national progress in addressing the priority areas identified in THE PEP, thereby assessing the effectiveness of THE PEP in stimulating national action and identifying areas for improvement. Two options were considered in some detail.

(a) The first option would be based on a questionnaire addressed to national focal points. The web-map and questionnaires for reporting developed by the Children’s Health and Environment Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE)⁴ were proposed as possible models for this. This mechanism could have the advantage of promoting participation also by countries that have been less active so far, in addition to being an effective means of identifying examples of good practice and indicators of success of integration of the three sectors (and possibly examples illustrating the consequences of a lack of integration).

(b) The second option, which could also be complementary to the first, would build on national data already made available at the international level (e.g. in the preparation of the “Environment for Europe” conference). The Bureau decided to hold further discussions and postpone the decision on the necessity and the possible scope and contents of a questionnaire until the next meeting.

10. The Bureau proposed using the workshop in Tbilisi (18–20 October 2006) to encourage further involvement by countries of EECCA in the preparatory process for the third HLM.

11. The following meeting schedule for the extended Bureau was tentatively endorsed:

- (a) Possibly back-to-back with the workshop in Tbilisi (October 2006);
- (b) Rome (December 2006);
- (c) Back-to-back with the fifth session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP (16–17 April 2007, Geneva);
- (d) Back-to-back with the third workshop of the Toolbox Task Force of THE PEP (late spring 2007, Czech Republic);

⁴ See, for example, http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/EEHC/implementation/20050601_12.

(e) Back-to-back with the fourth workshop of the Task Force (fall 2007, tentatively Republic of Moldova).

Coordination with other international processes and events

12. The Bureau supported the decision taken by the fourth Session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP to strengthen the links between THE PEP and other relevant international processes by making use of the major meetings taking place in 2007 (see para. 41 of the report of the Steering Committee).

13. To this end, the Bureau recommended that short briefings (e.g. in the form of fact sheets/brochures) on THE PEP and progress achieved in its implementation be produced. They should be tailored for each event, highlighting different topics and aspects as appropriate.

14. It also recommended that national delegations participating in these events be briefed by THE PEP national focal points and encouraged to support the inclusion of a reference to THE PEP in the declarations adopted at these events.

Next meeting

15. The next meeting of the extended Bureau could be held in Tbilisi in October 2006 (see para. 10 of this annex) or at the latest in Rome, possibly on 15 December 2006.