



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.21/2005/2
EUR/05/5046203/2
31 January 2005

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
(Third session, 11 and 12 April 2005
agenda item 3.)

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)**
Rome, Italy 17 December 2004

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting of the Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee was held in Rome, on 17 December 2004. The Bureau reviewed progress made in the implementation of THE PEP Work Programme for 2003-2005, and discussed the draft agenda for the third session of the Steering Committee. It held, in addition, preliminary discussions on the future directions for THE PEP, and on the organization of the third High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health in 2007.

2. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jaroslav Volf (Czech Republic), the current Chairperson of THE PEP Steering Committee, and attended by the following Bureau Members: Mr. Francois André (Belgium), Mr. Xavier Delache (France), Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom), Mr. Bertjan Griffioen (Netherlands), Mr. Risto Saari (Finland) and Ms. Ursula Ulrich (Switzerland). Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria) participated via phone-conference from Vienna.

3. Ms. Tea Aulavuo (UNECE), Mr. Martin Magold (UNECE), Ms. Francesca Racioppi (WHO) and Ms. Nicoletta di Tanno (WHO) participated on behalf of THE PEP secretariat.

4. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Harry Rutter, consultant to the secretariat for the design and development of THE PEP Clearing House and for the implementation of the project on "Promotion of safe cycling and walking" as well as by Ms. Angela Sochirca (UNECE) and Mr. Fabrice Pasquier, Information Content and IT Managers of THE PEP Clearing House project respectively.¹

5. The meeting was opened by Dr. Roberto Bertollini, Director of the Special Programme on Environment and Health of WHO/EURO. Dr. Bertollini thanked the Bureau members for their support to the Steering Committee in implementing THE PEP and welcomed the main achievements of the process to-date, including the promotion of closer cooperation across the different sectors. According to Dr. Bertollini, the Programme is increasingly considered as a reference also outside the European Region. He stressed, nevertheless, the need to further increase the visibility of the process and the support for its activities. To that end, he proposed that the Bureau and the Steering Committee should consider holding the mandated third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health back to back to another high-level meeting such as the mid-term review of the Budapest Conference, which will take place in 2007.

II. PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

(a) Work Programme of THE PEP Steering Committee for 2003-2005

(i) THE PEP Clearing House

6. The Bureau acknowledged that significant progress has been made during the implementation phase of THE PEP Clearing House and congratulated the secretariat on the achievements to date.

7. Following a detailed report on the work undertaken during the past months and an on-line presentation of the main features and functions of the Clearing House by Ms. Sochirca and Mr. Pasquier, the discussions focused on the following aspects:

- **Selection of documents to be uploaded on the Clearing House, including decisions about translation of key documents in Russian (and possibly French):** While it was agreed that the uploading of documents submitted to the Clearing House is a task for the Information Content Managers of the Clearing House, it was also pointed out that there might be a need to

¹ The Bureau meeting was preceded on 16 December 2004 by an intra-secretariat meeting on THE PEP Clearing House that was attended by competent staff of UNECE and WHO/Europe.

critically review the documents submitted to ensure that they meet the quality criteria set out for the Clearing House. The Advisory Board plays an important role in ensuring that these quality criteria are met. The Bureau also highlighted the major role that the National Focal Points should play in the identification of relevant reports, research and documents produced nationally. Furthermore, the Bureau suggested extending the pilot-testing of the Clearing House by inviting a number of Focal Points to test its facilities and submit relevant information. A meeting to receive feedback from volunteering Focal Points is planned to be held back-to-back to the third session of the Steering Committee. The issue of translating the website and the key documents into Russian (and if possible French) as soon as possible was raised during the discussion and the Bureau stressed the need to have as much as possible of the Clearing House translated into Russian before the third meeting of THE PEP Steering Committee.

- **Refinement of the mechanism for validating the information to be uploaded on the Clearing House.** The Bureau recommended to refine the already developed quality guidelines for information accessible on the Clearing House “Terms of Use” with a view to giving guidance for uploading of information and to facilitate its “classification”, in collaboration with the Advisory Board.

- **Refinement of the search engine mechanism.** The Bureau expressed its wish to have the electronic search mechanism restricted to the content of the Clearing House in order to ensure that the information retrieved is specific and relevant. The Bureau also stressed the usefulness of developing more advanced automatic sorting features (e.g. using the same features already applied under the Clearing House information tree established by the secretariat) as well as providing a more detailed and standardized description of the information retrieved, including the indication of authors and URLs.

- **Optimizing the Clearing House website layout.** The Bureau recommended modifying the website layout to match the needs of PCs with smaller screen resolution.

- **Development of a strategy for the dissemination and visibility of the Clearing House.** Relevant international events should be used, such as those organized by the EU Presidencies. Special efforts should be made to attain a larger public in the EECCA countries, as they are the main addressees of the information provided.

- **Value-added services to be provided by the Clearing House.** These could include, development of an electronic forum with feedback mechanisms, people database and mailing list, a list of “frequently asked questions” and “fact sheets” that present and summarize the information available, as well as providing access to relevant THE PEP databases, statistics and a trilingual glossary. On the basis of a working paper prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau undertook a preliminary evaluation and prioritization of possible additional services that could be established

during the pilot operation phase of the Clearing House in 2005, thereby providing guidance to the secretariat for planning the pilot operation activities.

(ii) **Sustainable and Healthy Urban Transport and Planning**

8. Ms. Aulavuo presented the main outcomes and proposed next steps in relation to the Workshop on “Implementing Sustainable Urban Travel Policies in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries” that was jointly organized by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the ECMT and THE PEP secretariats in Moscow on 29 September – 1 October 2004.

9. The Bureau congratulated the secretariat on the successful collaboration in organizing the Moscow Workshop and encouraged the continuation of the close cooperation with the ECMT secretariat, in particular in the field of urban transport. The Bureau appreciated the extensive background document prepared by a consultant to the secretariat, Dr. Plamen Dimitrov, as a contribution of THE PEP to the Workshop, namely the “Overview of the environmental and health effects of urban transport in the Russian Federation and the other countries in eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia (EECCA)” (document EUR/05/5046203/5- ECE/AC.21/2005/5). The Bureau recommended that the document be translated into Russian and disseminated widely in the region, including through the Clearing House. The Bureau also suggested complementing the report at a later date with a separate policy analysis focusing on how these countries are developing cross-sectoral integration, and which challenges they are facing.

10. Based on the positive feedback received during and after the Moscow workshop, notably from local authorities, it was suggested that it should be followed up with further workshops in the other EECCA countries for raising awareness on the environmental and health impacts of urban transport and to give the necessary impetus for improving the dialogue and cooperation between the sectors and the different levels of governments. Such EECCA workshops should be specially designed to strengthen the capacity of the national and local administrations as to the implementation of healthy and sustainable urban transport and land-use policies.

11. For maximizing the benefits from these workshops, the Bureau recommended tailoring them in such a way that they would target the specific conditions and the main concerns and challenges faced by the EECCA and South Eastern European countries in relation to the sustainability of urban travel, taking also into account the differences in the data collection and availability as well as in methodological approaches to research. The Bureau encouraged the secretariat to involve representatives from these countries closely in the development of the workshops.

12. Among the means for financing the workshops, it was suggested that delegates should be advised of potential opportunities for harnessing national development funds. The Bureau suggested also exploring opportunities of engaging support provided by International Financial Institutions (IFIs), such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank (WB).

(iii) Transport related health impacts and their costs

13. The topic was introduced by Ms. Racioppi. The Bureau welcomed the input of a number of member States in the implementation of this project and discussed its outcomes as well as the proposed next steps. The findings of the project were first presented at the Budapest Conference in June 2004, and further disseminated on the occasion of other relevant events (e.g. launch of the European Mobility Week and Conferences related to Transport, Environment and Health that were organized during the Dutch presidency of the EU).

14. The proposed follow-up activities involve *inter alia* work in the area of “Developing methods for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects in children” notably with the support of the United States of America Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Mr Robert Thaler announced, furthermore, that the final reports of the project would be sent to all members of THE PEP Steering Committee by mail.

15. Mr. Thaler also informed the Bureau of the continued interest of those member States that took part in the project to develop follow-up activities. These activities would involve development of national case studies focusing on different aspects of the economic valuation of transport-related environment and health effects. A planning meeting is expected to take place in early 2005, to discuss the specific contents of the follow-up activities, including their co-ordination with other relevant on-going initiatives (e.g. the USEPA-sponsored project on “Developing methods for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects in children”). Invitations to attend this planning meeting and to join the project will be sent to the members of the Steering Committee. The delegates will also be invited to participate in a task force, in line with the recommendations of the Committee at its second meeting.

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

16. Ms. Racioppi provided the Bureau with an update on the progress achieved and the further steps to be taken in the implementation of the project on promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas, taking into account the latest development in this area.

17. Mr. Saari provided information concerning the organization of a Workshop of the Nordic Council (Stockholm, 1-2 February 2005) on the development of guidance for assessing the costs and benefits of interventions which promote cycling and walking. He also informed the Bureau of another relevant report, which provides guidance and recommendations at the international, national and local level about managing commuting trips, with an emphasis on promoting public transport, cycling and walking. Both reports would be made available for dissemination through the Clearing House and would represent relevant background material for further development of this project.

18. Ms. Ulrich informed the Bureau about the establishment of the European Network for the Promotion of Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA – Network), whose secretariat will be hosted by the WHO in Rome, to maximize synergy with THE PEP. She highlighted that the HEPA network aims at bringing together different institutions and organizations and is open for membership from different countries.

19. Several members of the Bureau expressed their interest in playing an active role in the development of this project. The Bureau recommended implementing the project with a strong practice-oriented focus building on the work already carried out to strengthen the capacity of evaluating the effectiveness of interventions which promote walking and cycling, and to explore also mental health aspects.

20. The Bureau also recommended to set up the Task Force for the project implementation, as planned. The secretariat was invited to report on the progress made in the project implementation at the third session of the Steering Committee.

(v) **Institutional arrangements and mechanisms for integrated policy and decision-making**

21. Ms. Aulavuo provided an update on progress made in this activity, which aims at providing guidance on supportive institutional arrangements and mechanisms for the effective integration of environment and health issues into urban transport and land-use policies. Funds for the implementation of the project have been sought from the Volvo Research and Educational Foundation's Future Urban Transport Programme that supports solutions for urban travel improving accessibility, safety and environmental sustainability. The Bureau members were provided with copies of the research proposal that was prepared by Dr. Domic Stead with input from the secretariat. The results of the application are expected in January 2005².

² Following the Bureau meeting, the secretariat has been informed that the requested funds could not be provided by the Volvo Foundation. Therefore, the secretariat will explore other ways and means of obtaining the necessary financial resources to implement the project.

22. Provided that the appropriate funds are ensured, the implementation of the activity involves analysis of current practice across the UNECE and WHO/Europe region and identification of common lessons from them as well as examination of the transferability of these lessons between the cities in the region. Its implementation would be based on a mixture of desk-based research, interviews and a workshop.

23. The Bureau expressed its interest and approval for this project and was keen to be involved in its implementation. It made a number of specific comments, as follows:

- The dissemination of the project results should specifically target policy makers and politicians, who would be the main beneficiaries of the project outcomes.

- Due account should be given to the vertical dimension of the integration (i.e. between central and local levels of government) in addition to the horizontal one (across sectors) and to sharing of responsibilities and flow of resources between the relevant actors. Furthermore, the Bureau felt that the project should be of practical orientation and focus on the functioning or disfunctioning of the given administrative mechanisms in terms of the level of integration of the policies and decisions that are actually being produced. The ways of ensuring public participation in the drafting of policies and legislation should also be a central part of the analysis to be carried out.

- The work already carried out at the international level, in particular by the EU, ECMT and OECD should be used to complement the information obtained via questionnaires and interviews and in order to avoid overlaps. The role of existing legal instruments, e.g. on Strategic Environmental Assessment in fostering stronger integration of environmental and health considerations into transport policies should also be examined as well as possibilities for enforcing the implementation of the relevant regulations.

- The results of the project should be highlighted and disseminated at the third High Level Meeting.

- A task force could be established to assist in the implementation of the project.

24. Finally, the Bureau proposed to invite Dr. Stead to participate in the next meetings of the Steering Committee and the Bureau to provide an update on progress achieved in the implementation of this project.

(b) **Report on the contribution of THE PEP to the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health “The future for our children” (Budapest, 23-25 June 2004)**

25. Ms. Racioppi presented the main contributions of THE PEP to the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. These involved the holding of a Ministerial round table discussion on transport, environment and health during the plenary session of the Conference, the organization of a side event to present the results of the project “Transport related health impacts and their costs and benefits with particular focus on children” (including dissemination of the final reports) and the establishment of an exhibition stand providing on-line demonstration of THE PEP Clearing House and information material on THE PEP and its projects. In addition, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe organized a workshop on “Stationed for Sustainable Transport” back-to-back to the Ministerial Conference.

26. The Bureau appreciated the efforts of the secretariat to ensure good visibility of THE PEP at the Budapest Conference. It also highlighted the importance of pursuing opportunities for synergy between the implementation of THE PEP and the Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe adopted in Budapest, whose regional goals are directly related to those of THE PEP.

(c) **Report on donor support and financing of activities**

27. On the basis of a detailed report prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau was informed about the availability and use of resources to implement the mandated activities under THE PEP. Information was also provided about the mechanisms existing within UNECE and WHO to secure regular budget allocations, as opposed to voluntary contributions for implementation of THE PEP projects. From this presentation, it appeared that it would be extremely difficult for both the UNECE and the WHO to obtain greater support for THE PEP through their regular budgets.

28. The Bureau welcomed the detailed information provided and expressed its appreciation for the considerable amount of financial and in-kind resources that has been made available so far by a few donor countries, particularly for THE PEP Clearing House. It acknowledged the importance of finding ways of sustaining the substantial investment that has already been made into THE PEP implementation. This held particularly true for the operation of the THE PEP Clearing House that would require, as a minimum and under the assumption that UNECE continues to provide the substantive and technical support for its development and operation, between US\$ 168,000 and US\$ 240,000 per annum. These resources should be provided by more than the present relatively small number of member States, which have been able to support THE PEP implementation to date.

29. In order to ensure a more permanent or at least foreseeable flow of required extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of THE PEP projects to be shouldered by a larger number of UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries, the Bureau invited the secretariat to reflect on possible ways and means, such as yearly pledges for consideration by the Steering Committee. These mechanisms could be complemented by in-kind contributions, such as consultancy or translation services. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended analysis of the mechanisms that would allow tapping into resources made available by international finance institutions and other programmes and international initiatives (e.g. TACIS, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe³).

III. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE PEP

30. Ms. Aulavuo introduced the discussion on the future directions for THE PEP, and on the preparation of the third High-level Meeting that is mandated to be convened no later than in 2007 to assess the progress made under THE PEP and to decide upon its future directions.

31. The Bureau confirmed that, in general terms, the broad priority areas selected to constitute the policy framework of THE PEP are still valid and require no major changes. The Bureau also expressed its satisfaction with the progress achieved in the overall implementation of the activities under the priority areas since the establishment of THE PEP.

32. Considering the programme of work of the Committee for the next biennium 2005-2007, it recommended focusing the limited financial and human resources available on the implementation and further development of the present activities. Giving further consideration to the means for implementing the project on indicators for integration of transport, environment and health was put forward in this context. It was also suggested that more emphasis should be given to the management of the demand for transport, as this priority area had received relatively little attention during the first two years of the programme implementation. This could be achieved by further focus on and possible extension of the project on eco-driving that has been led by the Netherlands.

33. The Bureau called for caution in launching new projects unless appropriate resources are ensured for their implementation. Should new activities be considered, however, priority should be given to those addressing the needs of the countries in the EECCA and South-East Europe.

34. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the present operation of the institutional and administrative arrangements for the implementation of THE PEP and did not see the need to modify these. In order to provide further impetus for programme implementation, the idea of nominating lead

³ Please refer to <http://www.stabilitypact.org/> for more information.

countries for each of the activities, similar to the systems that were in place under the London Charter and the POJA processes, was raised.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (2007)

(a) Date and venue of the third High Level Meeting

35. Regarding the date and the venue of the 3^d High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, the Bureau recommended that consideration should be given to the possibility of holding it back to back to related high-level meetings already scheduled for 2007 (e.g. Mid-term review meeting of the Environment and Health process, sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, Ministerial Council meeting of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, ECMT) in order to maximize high-level participation and visibility of the event. The Bureau also emphasized the importance of selecting the “right” substantive themes for discussion as well as the expected objectives in order to attract a good attendance from Ministers and other high-level participants.

(b) Possible topic(s) for the third High Level Meeting

36. The Bureau stressed, firstly, the importance of identifying attractive themes and objectives for the Meeting that would be equally relevant for the participants from all the three sectors. Secondly, it was felt that the topics to be discussed should bear a positive message, focusing for instance on transport policies, which besides improving mobility and accessibility of people are good for the environment and health, and propose ways for ensuring that these policies receive more consideration through cross-sectoral integration.

37. The Bureau recommended that the consideration of the themes for the third High-level Meeting would start in the capitals as soon as possible and involve the participation of all the relevant sectors and stakeholders, so as to enable the Steering Committee to establish a list of possible topics at its next session. It would be of particular importance that the representatives of the main target group of THE PEP i.e. EECCA countries and countries in South-Eastern Europe, would propose topics, which they consider as priorities.

(c) Evaluation of THE PEP implementation

38. The Bureau started discussions on the ways for the Steering Committee to evaluate the progress made in implementing THE PEP between 2002 and 2007 for consideration at the third High Level Meeting. The assessment should include an appraisal of the degree of implementation of the specific projects and activities endorsed by the Steering Committee and of the extent to which

they have delivered the expected outputs, by identifying appropriate performance indicators. Moreover, the Bureau stressed the importance of obtaining specific feedback in particular from the EECCA and south Eastern European countries regarding the extent to which THE PEP has addressed their needs and facilitated the integration of health and environmental considerations into transport policies at the national level. The evaluation should also focus on the programme's capacity to coordinate and collaborate at the international level, with other relevant organizations and entities such as the EU, ECMT, OECD, and other international processes (e.g. CEHAPE, follow-up of the Kiev Conference on Environment for Europe) and with respect to relevant international legislation in place such as the UNECE and EU regulations on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

V. THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE (11-12 APRIL 2005)

39. The Bureau discussed and approved the proposed agenda of the third Meeting of THE PEP Steering Committee, which will take place on 11-12 April 2005 in Geneva.

40. The Bureau considered the chairmanship of THE PEP Steering Committee for the period 2005-2006, and proposed Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom), representing the transport sector, as candidate for election by the Committee, at its third session.

41. The Bureau noted, with regret, that Mr. Griffioen would retire in the course of 2005. In addition, following the transfer of Mr. Delache from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Transport, the secretariat was invited to consult with Member States on new candidates representing the environment sector for election to the Bureau.

VI. DISCUSSION ON WAYS TO INVOLVE THE IFI'S IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEP

42. Following the proposal from the Netherlands, the Bureau discussed opportunities to develop stronger links with IFIs (e.g. World Bank, EBRD, EIB, TACIS) in the implementation of THE PEP, for example regarding the exchange of information and possible cooperation on supporting sustainable transport in the region.

43. The Bureau recommended inviting representatives of IFIs, such as the World Bank and EBRD, to participate in the next session of the Steering Committee, to inform the Committee about the activities which they carry out in areas relevant to THE PEP implementation, and to hold discussions on possible ways for developing a stronger collaboration in areas of mutual interest.
