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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT,
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Steering Committee on the Transport, Health and
Environment Pan-European Programme

Sixth session
Geneva, 28–29 April 2008

**REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME ON ITS SIXTH SESSION**

Introduction

1. At its sixth session, the Steering Committee (hereinafter, the Committee) on the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) discussed, inter alia, the preparation for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Amsterdam 22–23 January 2009). It also reviewed progress made on its work programme since its last meeting in April 2007.
2. The session was attended by representatives from the following 22 countries: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The European Commission (EC) was represented. Representatives of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the International Road Federation also attended the session.
3. The secretariat indicated that due to a technical difficulty, Norway was inadvertently omitted from the list of participants in the Report of the previous session (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/10-EUR/07/THEPEPST/10).

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4. Participants were welcomed by Mr. Carlos Dora of the Public Health and the Environment Department, World Health Organization (WHO); Ms. Christina von Schweinichen, Environment and Housing and Land Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); and Mr. Martin Magold, Transport Division, UNECE.

5. The extended Bureau met on 30 April to prepare the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (hereinafter, HLM). The report of the Bureau meeting is annexed.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the agenda of its sixth session as prepared by the secretariats of the UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (hereinafter, THE PEP secretariat) in consultation with the Bureau (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/1 - EUR/08/5068055/1).

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Election of the Chairperson

7. The Committee elected Mr. Vadim Donchenko, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation as its new Chairperson. Mr. Donchenko succeeded Mr. François André, Service for International and Horizontal Affairs, Belgium. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Mr. André for his effective chairmanship.

B. Election of the members of the Bureau

8. The Committee re-elected the members of the Bureau, indicating that a new representative of the health sector would replace the outgoing Bureau member from the Czech Republic (Mr. Jaroslav Volf, Director, National Institute of Public Health). The Committee thanked Mr. Volf for his active participation in the Bureau over several years.

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

9. The Committee adopted the report of its fifth session, held in Geneva on 16 and 17 April 2007 (ECE/AC.21/2007/10 - EUR/07/THEPEPST/10) and of the meeting of its Bureau, held on 10 and 11 December 2007 in Rome (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/2 - EUR/08/5068055/2). It took note of the reports of ad hoc meetings of the extended Bureau on 25 June 2007 (Conference room paper no. 5) and 14 and 15 February 2008 in Brussels (Conference room paper no. 8), including a joint meeting between THE PEP secretariat and the European Commission with representatives from DG Transport and Energy (TREN), Environment (ENV) and Health and Consumer Protection (SANCO).

IV. THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

10. The Committee accepted the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands to host the third HLM on 22 and 23 January 2009 in Amsterdam. It welcomed the preparatory work and proposals for the organization of the event made by the Dutch Ministries of Transport, Environment and Health and THE PEP secretariat and agreed to continue preparatory work at the upcoming meetings of the extended Bureau.

A. Overarching theme of the Meeting

11. At its fourth and fifth sessions, the Committee had recommended the formulation of an overarching theme for the HLM and had considered initial ideas. The Committee discussed several themes developed on the basis of previous discussions by the Committee and the extended Bureau (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/1 - EUR/08/5068055/1, annex II). It agreed that the overarching theme for the HLM should maximize political interest, visibility, ownership and participation across the three sectors. Moreover, it should underline the tripartite and pan-European nature of the process as unique features of THE PEP. It discussed the possibility of climate change as a theme. However, as climate change had not been a priority under THE PEP, the Bureau agreed it would not be the focus of the HLM, although a session or side event to the HLM could possibly address this topic.

12. In consultation with the Netherlands as host country and the secretariat, the Extended Bureau agreed the theme for the HLM would be: "Making THE Link: transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity".

B. Format and content of the third High-level Meeting

13. The Netherlands proposed elements for the programme of the third HLM, including seven main sessions, possibly chaired by ministers representing the transport, health and environment sectors, as structured below:

- (a) An introductory session, a brief film and two keynote speeches on transport, health and environmental challenges in the Pan-European region;
- (b) A plenary session examining achievements, including THE PEP work programme implementation and outcome, followed by a substantive policy debate;
- (c) A session on available policy choices or strategies, including two keynote speeches, followed by three parallel sessions on choices available to the three sectors to achieve healthy, sustainable and efficient transport. A plenary debate would follow;
- (d) A session to introduce and consider the final draft outcome document or declaration of the HLM, including action points for policymakers;
- (e) A session devoted to linking knowledge to practice, including two keynote

speeches, a presentation of THE PEP toolbox, followed by three parallel sessions on good practices in healthy, sustainable and efficient transport;

(f) A session on opportunities for international cooperation, including a presentation of the European Commission's Green Paper "Towards a new culture for urban mobility" and action plan, followed by a plenary debate;

(g) A concluding session and adoption of the final meeting outcome document or declaration.

14. During the second day, exhibition space would be available for posters, brochures, leaflets and possibly technical products or services related to sustainable transport. While the meeting would be inter-governmental, the possibility of holding both an NGO (non-governmental organization) forum and a youth forum, and to foster cooperation with international financial institutions, was explored. The involvement of municipalities and local authorities, e.g. through the participation of mayors and urban associations, was considered important. Participants from other regions could also be given the opportunity to attend the HLM as observers. The United Nations Environment Programme expressed an interest in playing an active role in harnessing the interest and participation from the NGO community and municipal governments.

15. Delegations were invited to propose chairs for the parallel sessions and speakers or participants for the plenary debates.

16. The Committee thanked the host for the work done thus far, welcomed the proposals and concluded that:

(a) The proposals were a useful basis for the further development of the programme;

(b) The programme should be relevant to all three sectors in order to attract high-level representatives and ministers;

(c) One of the main aims of the HLM would be to strengthen THE PEP process and that this should also be reflected in the outcome document or declaration.

17. The Committee entrusted the extended Bureau (open to all member States) and the host to further develop the draft programme for the HLM, based on the feedback received.

C. Date and venue

18. The third HLM is scheduled to be held on 22 and 23 January 2009 in the Felix Meritis European Centre for Arts, Culture and Science, located in a historic building on the Keizersgracht in the centre of Amsterdam. The entire Meritis Centre would be reserved for the HLM, offering a variety of meeting rooms and exhibition space for the event. The meeting would last two full days, with a formal dinner on the first evening.

D. Preparatory process

19. An official invitation letter would be transmitted to Ministers of Transport, Health and Environment of UNECE and WHO/Europe member States.

20. Subsequent to the invitation letter, preparatory work would continue according to the agreed schedule:

(a) 1-2 October 2008: Extended Bureau meeting in Geneva to discuss the draft programme, the draft outcome document and other preparatory work (with the possibility for a subsequent meeting back-to-back to a sub-regional workshop in Chisinau on 31 October);

(b) Early December 2008: Extended Bureau meeting in Rome (WHO/Europe) to finalize the programme, the draft outcome document and other preparations;

(c) 21 January 2009, afternoon: meeting of the extended Bureau, preceding the HLM, to agree the final outcome document.

E. Main documentation for HLM

1. Transport, health and Environment: trends and developments in the UNECE-WHO Pan-European region (1997–2007)

21. The Committee endorsed the structure and main issues highlighted in the final draft of the review report (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/4 - EUR/08/5068055/4 and conference room paper no. 4), which covered the 10-year period since the 1997 Vienna UNECE Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment. Delegations were invited to provide detailed comments to THE PEP secretariat by 20 May 2008. The report would be finalized for submission to the HLM.

2. THE PEP Assessment Report

22. The secretariat presented the Assessment Report (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/3 - EUR/08/5068055/3), which noted achievements of THE PEP in its first five-year period (2002–2007). The Assessment Report was based on replies to a questionnaire on policy integration, modal shift and sustainable urban transport that had been circulated to THE PEP focal points in 2006, as well as other sources. It highlighted progress made at the national level in the priority areas of THE PEP, the main successes and weaknesses of THE PEP, as well as recommendations for increasing its effectiveness. Replies were received from the following 15 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Malta, Moldova, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

23. The Committee welcomed the Assessment Report, particularly its practical examples and case studies, and underlined its importance in providing strategic direction and developing new priorities and projects for the future. The report would be finalized for presentation to the HLM.

3. Outcome document or declaration

24. The secretariat presented draft elements for an outcome document or declaration (conference room paper no. 3) to be adopted at the HLM. These elements were further developed by the extended Bureau and will be submitted for comments to the Committee in advance of the next meeting of the Extended Bureau.

25. The draft outcome document is entitled Making THE Link: Transport choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity, and is structured as follows:

Preamble

- I. THE CHALLENGE: to promote safe, efficient, healthy and environmentally sustainable transport.
- II. THE GOALS: “Making THE Link: three pan-European goals:
Goal 1: To manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system;
Goal 2: To reduce emissions;
Goal 3: To promote health and safety.
- III. THE STRATEGY: To promote national environmental transport and health action plans (NETHAPS).
- IV. THE ACTION: 15 points for policymakers.
- V. THE FUTURE: Priorities and way forward through THE PEP.

26. The Committee requested the extended Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, to further consider the content of the outcome document or declaration that should include concrete actions to be taken by policymakers toward the agreed goals. It should also contain mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and reporting.

27. Several delegations expressed support for the preparation of a declaration; others expressed a preference for a shorter and more generic charter or vision document with an attached action plan. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed further at the next meeting of the extended Bureau.

28. Some participants recalled earlier discussions on the development of a framework agreement on transport, environment and health. The Committee concluded that while some countries expressed support for such a Convention, there was, at present, no consensus. The draft outcome document would refer to the possibility of re-visiting the question of a framework agreement.

29. It was underlined that regardless of the nature of the final outcome document, the HLM should aim at strengthening THE PEP process both at the national and international level, including an adequate and stable funding mechanism.

30. The Committee entrusted the extended Bureau to continue to develop the draft outcome document, in accordance with the Committee’s feedback, and to include a list of concrete action

points for policymakers. The secretariat would transmit the agreed draft to THE PEP Focal Points following the Steering Committee meeting for further consideration and feedback.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

A. Progress reports and proposals for further action

31. The Committee was informed of progress in the implementation of its work programme and provided guidance on future work (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/6 - EUR/08/5068055/6):

1. Clearing House on Transport, Health and Environment

32. The Committee was informed about technical and substantive work carried out by the secretariat during the present pilot operation phase of THE PEP Clearing House. Due to a lack of resources, the secretariat was compelled to keep the Clearing House in "automatic" mode, i.e. providing basic technical maintenance, verification and authorization of uploaded data and information. The originally foreseen services of a content manager to ensure interaction with users could not be provided due to the lack of financial resources.

33. The Committee decided to prolong the pilot operation during 2008 and to use the remaining extrabudgetary resources for this purpose. UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries were requested to consider the possibility of funding personnel for the maintenance and further development of the Clearing House.

2. Sustainable urban transport and land-use planning

34. On the basis of the results of the South Caucasian Workshop on Sustainable Urban Transport and Land-use Planning (Tbilisi, October 2006), the delegation of Moldova confirmed its interest in holding a follow-up workshop on 29 and 30 October 2008 in Chisinau. This workshop would cover integrated approaches to policymaking in transport, health and environment, as well as citizens' travel preferences and perceptions. Switzerland announced that it had provided support for the workshop.

35. The Committee noted with appreciation that the delegation of Bulgaria proposed hosting a workshop on healthy and sustainable urban transport in spring 2009. This workshop would likely focus on children and be carried out in coordination with the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE).

3. Transport-related health impacts and their costs and benefits, with a particular focus on children – the toolbox on transport, environment and health

36. The Committee was informed of progress made in the development of a toolbox for action on transport, environment and health, including a workshop in Telč, Czech Republic, (25–27 June 2007) and a meeting of the THE PEP Toolbox Task Force. Both meetings were hosted and supported by the Transport Research Centre and the National Institute of Public Health, the Czech Republic. The Toolbox contents, particularly the checklist for health-impact assessment,

were deemed useful and applicable to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and of South-Eastern Europe. Further financial contributions would be needed for the continued development of the Toolbox, particularly for printed products, dissemination and advocacy.

37. The Committee was informed of progress on “Review methods and development of guidance for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects, with a particular focus on children”, carried out with the support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the French Agency for Energy and the Environment (ADEME) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The final draft report would be made available to the Committee for review in May 2009.

4. Guidance on institutional arrangements for integrated policy- and decision-making

38. The Committee took note of the final draft text of a brochure on “Guidance on supportive institutional conditions for policy integration of transport, health and environment” The brochure was developed with support from the Governments of Germany and Belgium at the request of the Steering Committee at its fourth session (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/7 - EUR/07/5068055/7). The Committee welcomed the draft and suggested adding concrete examples, particularly from EECCA countries, to inspire action in policy integration. It discussed ideas for further dissemination of this practical guidance. The brochure would be launched at the HLM.

5. Promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas

39. The Committee was informed of progress in the project on “Methodological guidance on the economic appraisal of health effects related to walking and cycling”, implemented in collaboration with the European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA Europe). It aims to facilitate the harmonization of methodological approaches by providing guidance for practitioners and is supported by Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The project is focused on approaches to the economic valuation of potential health effects and its products are intended to be integrated into cost-benefit analyses of transport infrastructure projects, complementing existing tools. Results were presented in November 2007, including guidance on quantifying the health effects of cycling and walking, an illustrative tool for cycling applying the principles outlined in the guidance (titled “Health economic assessment tool for cycling”, or “HEAT for cycling”) and a user guide.

40. The Committee was invited to consider a pilot application of the guidance and tools. The Committee was also informed that as a next step of the project, the development of a HEAT for walking was foreseen and invited delegations to participate.

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

41. The Committee welcomed the information on the use of financial and in-kind resources made available by donor countries as well as by the UNECE and WHO/Europe secretariats for the implementation of the work programme of THE PEP (ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/7 - EUR/08/5068055/7). The document contained a list of projects and activities with estimated

costs that required funding from donors to ensure implementation of the approved work programme. The Committee adopted the document and reiterated the need to develop a more stable funding mechanism for THE PEP to be endorsed at the HLM.

VI. ENHANCING COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

42. The Committee was informed about a joint meeting held between the European Commission (EC) and THE PEP Bureau on 15 February 2008 in Brussels, with representatives of DG TREN, ENV and SANCO. The meeting identified opportunities for further collaboration starting with the participation of an EC representative at the sixth session of the Steering Committee. A representative of DG SANCO presented ongoing activities, particularly the White Paper, “Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues” and the platform on diet, physical activity and health, and informed the Committee on experiences made in public-private partnerships.

43. The Committee took note of the information and recalled that other possibilities, such as the presidency of the European Union, could be used to highlight THE PEP at the European level. This approach had been used during the Finnish presidency with respect to “Health in all policies”, including the organization of a workshop on transport, health and environment.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

44. The Committee was informed about the first session of the International Transport Forum (ITF) (Leipzig, Germany 28–30 May 2008,) on “Transport and Energy: The Challenge of Climate Change”. The ITF draft meeting declaration covered several topics of interest to the Committee.

45. Austria informed the Committee about the national campaign “Klima.aktiv” (Vienna, 2–3 June 2008,). THE PEP secretariat had been invited to present its activities at the event.

46. UITP informed the Committee about the second UITP Sustainable Development Conference to be held from 22 to 24 October 2008, and welcomed a contribution of THE PEP.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

47. The Committee agreed that its seventh session would be held on 27 and 28 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, followed by a meeting of the Bureau.

Annex

REPORT OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The extended Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met on 30 April 2008 at WHO headquarters in Geneva, following the sixth session of the Steering Committee, in order to continue preparations of the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (HLM). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation).
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Narin Panariti (Albania), Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria), Ms. Hristina Mileva (Bulgaria), Mr. Jiří Bendel and Dr. Jaroslav Volf (Czech Republic), Ms. Nino Gokhelasvili and Dr. Manana Juruli (Georgia), Dr. Zsuzsanna Bibók (Hungary), Mr. Ján Janiga (Slovakia), Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom) and Mr. Chuck Ashley (United States). In addition, the following members of the Steering Committee participated: Mr. Ralph Kellermann (Germany), Dr. Ion Shalaru (Moldova) and Dr. José Robalo (Portugal).
3. Dr. Sonja Kahlmeier and Ms. Francesca Racioppi of WHO and Mr. Martin Magold and Ms. Brinda Wachs of UNECE participated on behalf of THE PEP secretariat.
4. The Bureau discussed the draft outcome document of the HLM. In particular, it developed the following proposal for the theme of the High-level Meeting: “Making THE Link: transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity” for consideration by the host. It revised the draft version of the outcome document, in accordance with feedback from the Steering Committee and drafted a list of concrete actions for policy makers which delegations could adopt and develop in the way that suited their national perspectives and goals. A mechanism for implementation, monitoring and reporting would be included.
5. The proposal to consider establishing national centres of excellence on THE PEP was welcomed and the secretariat was invited to develop more detailed proposals for further discussion. The secretariat would also develop proposals for a funding mechanism within THE PEP. Both proposals would be considered at the next session of the extended Bureau on 1-2 October 2008 in Geneva.
6. The next draft of the outcome document would be sent to the Steering Committee on 5 June, with comments to be received by 5 July 2008. A further version should be developed by early September 2008.
7. The next meetings of the extended Bureau would be held on 1 and 2 October 2008 in Geneva on 31 October 2008 in Chisinau, followed by a meeting in early December 2008 in Rome, hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe to finalize preparations for the HLM.