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

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

Fifth session
Geneva, 16–17 April 2007
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STEERING
COMMITTEE¹ AND THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU**

Report by the secretariat²

1. This report provides information on the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP). The Bureau provided advice on the preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health as well as for the fifth session of the Steering Committee (16-17 April 2006); and reviewed progress made in the implementation of the work programme of THE PEP.

¹ See document ECE/AC.21/2006/10 - EUR/06/THEPEP/10

² This document has been submitted late due to technical reasons.

2. The Bureau invited the secretariat of THE PEP (the secretariat) to report on the outcome of its meeting as well as to reflect them accordingly in the documents for the fifth session of the Steering Committee.

3. Mr. Nigel Dotchin, Head of the Transport Policy Coordination Branch, Department of Transport, United Kingdom chaired the meeting. The following Bureau members and delegates attended the meeting: Mr. François André (Belgium), Ms. Hristina Mileva (Bulgaria), Mr. Jaroslav Volf (Czech Republic), Mr. Risto Saari (Finland), Ms Nino Tkhilava (Georgia), Mr. Mario Fruianu (the Netherlands), Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Ms. Ursula Ulrich (Switzerland) and Mr. Chuck Ashley (United States).

4. Ms. Tea Aulavuo (UNECE), Mr. Martin Magold (UNECE), Ms. Brinda Wachs (UNECE), Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier (WHO), and Ms. Francesca Racioppi (WHO) participated on behalf of THE PEP secretariat.

I. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES

A. Work Programme of THE PEP Steering Committee for 2006-2007

(a) THE PEP Clearing House

5. The secretariat updated the Bureau on the recent technical and substantive work undertaken on the Clearing House and presented statistics on its use as well as uploading of documents during 2006.

6. The Bureau noted that the main challenge was to ensure that the Clearing House was kept up to date, in particular by the national focal points, and that it provided a value added to its users. The full-fledged operation of the Clearing House also required adequate funding and dedicated human resources within the secretariat. In particular, a dedicated content manager was deemed necessary to ensure a constant flow of communication and to increase the interest of users. In addition, the Bureau recommended that the secretariat continue making use of interns for “routine” tasks, such as uploading of documents approved by the secretariat.

7. The Bureau agreed to prolong the pilot operation phase in 2007 to allow the use of remaining funds earmarked for this purpose. It invited the secretariat to present to the Steering Committee options for the sustained operation of the Clearing House. Regarding the development of additional services, such as a bulletin board or a newsletter, the Bureau recommended postponing them until sufficient resources were secured.

8. To promote greater visibility of the Clearing House and to increase its use and information contents, the Bureau suggested “re-launching” the Clearing House site, for example by means of e-mail notifications and a leaflet before the fifth session of the Steering Committee. The need for a content manger to carry out the required communication activities for increasing the visibility of the site was again highlighted.

9. In order to facilitate the uploading of the information by the delegates, the Bureau suggested organizing a short demonstration of the Clearing House, including “hands-on” guidance for the uploading of documents, during the fifth session of the Committee. It also recommended that the secretariat address additional target audiences, such as the academic community, for increasing the information uploads. Finally, it invited the secretariat to examine possibilities to link the Clearing House with the electronic library of the joint OECD/ European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Transport Research Centre.

(b) Sustainable and Healthy Urban Transport and Planning

10. The secretariat reported on the main outcomes of the South Caucasian Workshop on Sustainable Urban Transport and Land Use Planning, which took place in Tbilisi on 18 - 20 October 2006. The workshop was organized by the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and THE PEP secretariat, in partnership with the Ministries of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and of Internal Affairs, the Tbilisi Municipal Government and the National Commission for Transport Regulation. It was attended by about 70 participants, from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and from the other UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries (including several members of the Bureau) as well as from international and non-governmental organizations. The report of the workshop, the presentations and background documents are available on THE PEP website.³

11. The Bureau welcomed the workshop as a successful event in promoting networking and collaboration between sectors at local, national and international levels; exchanging experience and good practice; increasing awareness of health and environment hazards of urban travel in South-Caucasus, providing guidance on the tools available as well as issuing recommendations to national and local governments.

12. The Bureau acknowledged the value added of THE PEP as a unique region-wide forum for promoting sustainable urban transport, cross-sectoral cooperation and policy integration in EECCA and SEE, through awareness raising, exchange of experience and capacity building. As such, it was deemed important that THE PEP Steering Committee continue to support capacity building activities in the field of urban transport in these countries.

13. In particular, it considered the following future activities:

- Organizing further sub-regional workshops elsewhere in EECCA and SEE, upon invitation from the countries concerned, and depending on the availability of donor funds;
- Facilitating twinning projects between countries of the UNECE and WHO/Europe region to transfer relevant knowledge and experience;

³ ECE/AC.21/2007/5 - EUR/07/5068055/5 and http://www.thepep.org/en/workplan/urban/urban_docs.htm#Tbilisi

- Developing and carrying out further questionnaire surveys on citizens' awareness, values and priorities regarding urban travel in EECCA and SEE, using a common methodology in order to better address the demand for urban transport in this region;
- Establishing a mechanism for countries to report on the implementation of the workshops' recommendations at the national and local levels.

14. The Bureau recommended that the third High-level Meeting be used to highlight to ministers the urban transport challenges in EECCA and SEE, including in the background material to be prepared for the Meeting. The High-level Meeting should also issue specific recommendations calling for concerted and committed action in the countries; for further support from the donors as well as to highlight the role of THE PEP in facilitating and coordinating these efforts.

15. The Bureau invited the secretariat to submit the report of the Tbilisi workshop and the recommendations for further actions to the Steering Committee, for its consideration and decisions.

(c) Transport related health impacts and their costs

16. The Bureau was informed of progress achieved in the follow-up work to the project on transport-related health impacts and their costs, involving the further development of the "Toolbox for action on transport, environment and health", which is being implemented by a Task-Force co-chaired by the Netherlands and Austria and supported by RIVM, the Dutch Institute for Health and Environment.

17. The Toolbox is meant to: provide guidance to practitioners on how to assess the effects of transport policies on health and the environment; make easily available tools and methods which exist to that effect; provide check lists and reporting forms for the development and dissemination of case studies; stimulate the development of national case studies, and provide briefings for policy makers on selected topics. The Toolbox is meant to be fully integrated into THE PEP Clearing House.

18. The secretariat reported on the feedback received on the pilot-use of the Toolbox for health-impact assessment (HIA) in Georgia during the third day of the Tbilisi workshop and during a preparatory mission carried out by a Dutch expert on 16-22 September 2006. The pilot-use and the feedback provided guidance on the capacity building needs in assessing transport-related health effects in EECCA. More specifically, the workshop demonstrated a need to improve the evidence base for the transport related health impacts (transport patterns, injury surveillance, air quality, gas quality etc.), a need to increase confidence in modelling and application of international epidemiological evidence, as well as a strong interest in strengthening capacity for monitoring (e.g. air quality).

19. Mr. Jaroslav Volf provided the Bureau with preliminary information on the workshop that will be held in Telč, in Czech Republic, possibly on 25-27 June 2007, for the further development of the Toolbox. This workshop will build on the Tbilisi workshop and is expected to include a half-day capacity building session, possibly focusing on tools and legal and

administrative frameworks that have facilitated policy integration in transport, environment and health in Czech Republic and in other countries. The second and third day could be dedicated to feedback from pilot users of the Toolbox and to agreeing further steps to fine-tune its content and features.

20. The Bureau was informed that the implementation of the project on “Developing methods for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects in children” with the support of the United States of America Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has started and will continue in 2007. Due to administrative procedures as well as the need to secure further resources for its’ full implementation, the project has progressed more slowly than expected.

21. The Bureau invited the secretariat to report on the activities carried out and on the proposals for the next steps for the consideration of the Steering Committee at its fifth session.

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

22. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the project report on Supportive Institutional Conditions for the Integration of Transport, Environment and Health Issues in Policy Making has been finalized on the basis of the feedback from the Committee at its fourth session (10-11 April 2006). The Bureau welcomed the report and invited the secretariat to inform the Committee of the additions and the amendments made to it. Due to the length of the report (50 pages in English, 70 pages in Russian) it was not recommended to reissue and resubmit the entire document to the Committee.

23. Instead, the Bureau recommended to focus on the preparation of a concise brochure for policy makers, building on the project report, as requested by the Steering Committee. It recommended the secretariat to identify a consultant to assist in the preparation of the brochure and to submit its’ draft outline for the consideration of the Committee at its fifth session. Finally, the Bureau also acknowledged the active support from Germany and Belgium on this activity.

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

24. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the collection and analysis of case studies on Collaboration between Physical Activity Promotion and the Transport Sector: Examples from European Countries, carried out by the University of Basel, in collaboration with THE PEP Task Force on Cycling and Walking and with European Network for the Promotion of Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA – Europe) had been completed.

25. The Bureau was briefed on progress made in the development of methodological approaches to the assessment of health effects from cycling and walking as well as of the costs and benefits of promoting non-motorized transport. Furthermore, it was informed of a workshop to achieve scientific consensus on the proposed methodological approaches, hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, in Graz on 15-16 May 2007.

26. Finally, the Bureau was informed about the main outcomes of a Ministerial Conference on “Counteracting Obesity” (Istanbul, 15-17 November 2006), including the adoption of a Charter that invites WHO Member States to take stock of THE PEP (and the CEHAPE) as policy platforms that facilitate a multi-sectoral approach to the promotion of physical activity.

II. PREPARATION OF THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH (2008)

27. The Bureau provided guidance regarding the preparations of the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, which is scheduled to take place in 2008, as agreed by the Steering Committee at its fourth session, 10-11 April 2006. In particular, it considered and provided recommendations on the issues under points A to E below, which the Steering Committee shall be invited to discuss and agree on at its 5th session. The recommendations from the Bureau have been reflected in document ECE/AC.21/2007/3-EUR/07/5068055.

A. Overarching theme of the Meeting

28. The Bureau discussed the following two themes, proposed by the secretariat:

(a) “Change your mobility/transport behaviour, not our climate” or “Travel wise, stop climate change”, focusing on the role of policy integration, capacity building and other soft measures advocated by the THE PEP in addressing topical challenges for the region such as climate change.

(b) “More choices – better choices”, highlighting THE PEP as the pan-European policy platform that advocates the development of a broader range of policies and opportunities for sustainable and healthy transport.

29. While recognizing that the theme relating to climate change may be of high political relevance and attractive for the media, the Bureau recommended the selection of a theme that was directly linked with the objectives and substantive work carried out under THE PEP. Furthermore, it recommended that the theme refer to all the three sectors as well as to their priority goals (i.e. efficiency of the transport system, clean environment, health and safety of the population). The Bureau members proposed a number of possible themes for the Meeting and invited the secretariat to narrow them down to a few prioritized themes to be submitted to the Steering Committee.

B. Main documentation

30. The Bureau provided guidance on the preparation of the following main documents for the High-level Meeting, decided upon by the Steering Committee at its fourth session:

(a) Review of transport developments and their health and environment impacts (1997–2007)

The Bureau invited the secretariat to present to the Committee proposals on the main contents and sources of information for the Review well as on the estimated consultancy funds needed for the preparatory work.

(b) Assessment of the policy response to date, focusing on the THE PEP (2002–2008)

The Bureau invited the secretariat to prepare a short questionnaire to facilitate the collection of information from delegations on the main achievements and main challenges in implementing THE PEP as well as on areas for further improvement.

(c) Meeting Declaration

The Bureau discussed specific actions to be developed for governments to commit to at the High-level Meeting. As agreed by the Bureau, at its' meeting in April 2006, these actions should aim at fulfilling the objectives that were set by the Steering Committee, at its fourth session. The delegations that had volunteered as lead countries were invited to develop the proposed actions further, in consultation with the other interested delegations, and to present them to the Committee for discussion and approval.

The Bureau welcomed the offers from the Russian Federation to contribute to defining appropriate actions for the objective three, focusing the challenges faced by EECCA and SEE countries, as well as from Austria and the Netherlands to become lead-countries for objective four, on identifying priorities for future work in transport, health and environment within THE PEP. The secretariat was invited to facilitate the preparatory work.

31. In addition, the Bureau reiterated the need to prepare a concise document on the substantive theme of the Meeting, once decided upon, to facilitate discussions during the Ministerial panel.

C. Programme: Structure of the Meeting, speakers, chairs

32. The Bureau recommended to continue to refer to a third High-level Meeting, in line with the previous two Meetings, instead of a "Ministerial" meeting.

33. The Bureau was in favour of dividing the meeting into four main sessions, involving (i) a review of the regional developments on transport, health and environment 1997-2007; (ii) an assessment of THE PEP; (iii) a ministerial panel on the main theme of the meeting; and (iv) a concluding session with the adoption of a Meeting declaration.

34. The Bureau also proposed that the Meeting should last 1.5 days to allow for informal interactions between ministers and other senior participants, inter alia during a possible social event that could take place on the first evening.

D. Venue and date of the Meeting

35. The Bureau invited the secretariat to carry out informal consultations with the governments to identify potential host countries.

E. Preparatory Process

36. The Bureau agreed on a preparatory process for the High-level Meeting that involves a series of meetings by an open-ended preparatory group composed of the members of the Bureau, other interested delegations, the secretariat and possible consultants. The Bureau agreed to hold the next meeting of the preparatory group on 18 April 2007, back to back with the fifth session of the Steering Committee (16-17 April). Further meetings would follow in summer and autumn 2007 to discuss the first drafts of the background documents as well as in December 2007 and in early 2008 to finalize them.

37. The Bureau highlighted that organizational details need to be adapted to take account of the venue and the specific date to be chosen for the High-level Meeting.

III. 5TH SESSION OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE (16-17 APRIL 2007)

38. The Bureau commented and approved the draft agenda for the fifth session of the Steering Committee, 16-17 April 2007 as prepared by the secretariat.

39. The Bureau considered the chairmanship for the period 2007-2008 and proposed the election of Mr. François André, Attaché, Federal Public Service, Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, International Affairs Service, Belgium, as Chairman of the fifth session of the Steering Committee.

40. In addition, the Bureau took also note of the following changes in membership in the Bureau: Mr. Xavier Delache will be replaced by Mr. Marc Strauss, Head, European Affairs Division, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, Tourism and the Sea, France; while Mrs. Sjoukje Faber, Senior Policy Adviser on Environment and Health issues, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Netherlands, would replace Mr. Riso Saari. In addition, Mr. Risto Saari informed that Ms. Outi Väkevää will replace him in the Steering Committee. The Bureau warmly thanked Mr. Saari and Mr. Delache for their support to THE PEP and their work in the Bureau.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEP WORK PROGRAMME

41. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the availability and use of resources to support THE PEP implementation. In particular, it discussed the long-term sustainability of the Clearing House and the funds needed to support the active participation of representatives from EECCA and SEE countries, particularly in view of the preparations for the 3rd High Level Meeting.

42. In addition to the detailed report on the use and further needs of extra budgetary funds, the Bureau invited the secretariat to inform the Committee of the in-kind contributions from the countries as well as of the regular budget support provided by the UNECE and WHO/Europe secretariat. This was deemed necessary in order to provide countries with a full picture of resources made available to THE PEP.

**V. REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE “HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES” AND
THE WORKSHOP “TRANSPORT-ENVIRONMENT-HEALTH:
SHARED POLICY GOALS?”
(KUOPIO, FINLAND 20-21 SEPTEMBER 2006)**

43. The Bureau was informed about the outcome of a workshop organized by the Finnish Ministry of Transport in the context of the Conference “Health in All Policies” organized during the Finnish Presidency of the EU. The three sectors represented at the workshop discussed opportunities arising from shared policy goals as well as further development tools and mechanisms that could support greater policy integration between transport, health and environment.

44. THE PEP secretariat made an introductory presentation on how THE PEP had been promoting policy integration. The workshop concluded that THE PEP “provides a unique and pioneering framework for policy integration and cooperation between transport, environment and health sectors and thereby it provides an interesting and useful test example also for other policy sectors to launch wider inter-sectoral policy dialogue and policy integration processes”. The Bureau welcomed the outcome of the workshop, and the potential for reinforcing the role of THE PEP as a policy platform for policy integration also within the EU member countries.

**VI. PREPARATION OF THE MID TERM REVIEW OF THE BUDAPEST
DECLARATION AND CEHAPE IMPLEMENTATION
(VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 13-15 JUNE 2007)**

45. The Bureau was updated on the preparations of the mid-term review of the implementation of the Budapest Declaration and the Children’s Health and Environment Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), which will be hosted by Austria in Vienna on 13-15 June 2007. The current draft programme includes two possible sessions to report on THE PEP. The secretariat will keep the Bureau informed as further details become available.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

46. The Bureau agreed with the proposed reply to the UNECE secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) regarding the consultation on the related procedures within THE PEP.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

47. The next meeting of the extended Bureau will take place on 18 April 2007 following the fifth Steering Committee meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, on 16-17 April 2007.
