

1 August 2011

THE PEP Steering Committee, 9th session

Agenda item 4

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

20-21 June 2011, Rome

A. Participation

1. The Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met from 20 to 21 June 2011 in Rome to discuss the preparations for the 9th session of THE PEP Steering Committee and THE PEP 2011 Symposium in November 2011; to review preparations and activities of the implementation mechanisms of the Amsterdam Declaration; to discuss the monitoring process of the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration; to discuss THE PEP communication activities, and to consider the proposed THE PEP work programme for 2011-12.
2. The meeting was chaired by THE PEP Steering Committee chair Ms Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin (Switzerland). The following Bureau members attended: Mr Robert Thaler (Austria), Ms Nadine Asconchilo and Mr Philippe Maler (France), Ms Nino Tkhilava (Georgia), Mr Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Mr Mihail Kochubovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Ms Elizabeth Lord (United States of America).
3. Ms Francesca Racioppi, Mr Christian Schweizer (WHO Regional Office for Europe) and Mr Martin Magold (UNECE, Transport Division) participated from THE PEP secretariat. The meeting was hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome office.
4. The Bureau adopted the report of its thirteenth session (Geneva, 10 December 2010).

B. Implementation mechanisms

5. The Bureau discussed and accepted the plan of work and proposal on how Member States can contribute to the finalization of the manual for developing National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs). It further discussed the current draft of the manual and proposed to include a chapter (including some practical examples) pointing at the importance of political “windows of opportunity” to maximize the impact of and support to NTHEAPs, focusing on the importance of linking to other international processes to bring changes at the national level.
6. Member States would be requested to express their interest in applying the manual (in its entirety or partially) on a pilot basis, the results of which would be incorporated into the final draft. This pilot phase is expected to start in July 2011 and end in February 2012.

Additionally, Member States are encouraged to submit good practice experiences in developing NTHEAPs to the secretariat in the same timeframe.

7. Ms Asconchilo from France and Mr Donchenko from the Russian Federation reported on the status of their existing NTHEAPs.

8. The Bureau considered the draft outline for a THE PEP publication on green jobs in the transport sector. In view of the possible launch of the publication at the Europe for Environment Conference in Astana in September 2011, the Bureau decided to re-focus the format and scope of the publication, and to use the side event in Astana as a platform to launch the work on transport and green jobs as a new partnership under THE PEP. A brief factsheet based on the outcomes of THE PEP Symposium 2010 would be produced for the Astana Conference. This factsheet would serve as a teaser for a more elaborate publication to be developed within the framework of THE PEP Partnership in 2012.

9. The factsheet to be produced for the Astana Conference would focus on highlighting the investment potential of greening the transport sector (as opposed to pure costs), the creation of new job profiles, the relevance of THE PEP as a platform addressing these issues, examples from THE PEP Symposium 2010, the role of international funding institutions and the definition of a “green job”.

10. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the new and updated Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling which was developed with the support from THE PEP. HEAT was launched in May 2011 during a THE PEP side event at the International Transport Forum in Leipzig.

11. The secretariat and Mr Maler from France informed the Bureau on THE PEP relay race workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport policies held on 7/8 June 2011 in Kyiv. The presentations and action points from the workshop are available on THE PEP website and will be considered by the Steering Committee at its 9th session. The Bureau endorsed the action points for policy makers and urged governments to implement them. It welcomed the continued trend toward organizing workshops in the eastern parts of the UNECE/WHO European region, with a focus on national rather than sub-regional issues.

12. Ms Tkhilava from Georgia and Mr Kochubovski from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported on follow-up activities to the workshops held in Batumi and Skopje in 2010.

13. The Bureau discussed the long-term local impacts of relay race workshops. Relay race workshop reports shall be presented by the corresponding Member State at subsequent sessions of the Steering Committee. Additionally, the secretariat was tasked with exploring opportunities prior to workshops on how to engage international funding institutions. For this purpose, the secretariat shall provide Member States with a list of funding opportunities for collaborative projects at the international level. Another option to be proposed to the Steering Committee is organizing follow-up missions one year after the workshops to report on progress made, with results ultimately being presented at the Fourth High-level Meeting in 2014.

14. The Bureau welcomed a proposal from Mr Donchenko from the Russian Federation to discuss with the Ministry of Transport the possibility of organizing a THE PEP relay race workshop (or conference) in the Russian Federation in 2012 with a focus on urban mobility, public transport and traffic management. The results of this workshop could be made available at the International Transport Forum in May 2012 in Leipzig.

15. A further call for expression of interest in hosting a THE PEP relay race workshop would be made at the next session of the Steering Committee.

C. Preparation of the 9th session of THE PEP Steering Committee

16. The Bureau considered the draft agenda for the 9th session of the Steering Committee. The session would focus on monitoring the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration and THE PEP process in Member States. It would aim to agree its programme of work and continue its efforts to attract civil society and other stakeholders to the process such as environmental and health NGOs and municipal authorities. The Bureau requested to include in the agenda an outlook to the Symposium in 2012, the planning of the Fourth High-level meeting, a presentation from EC on funding opportunities, presentation of the outline of the publication on green jobs with a call for a THE PEP Partnership and general financing mechanisms for THE PEP.

17. As decided at its 7th session and as done already once in 2010 in order to explore selected THE PEP-related topics more thoroughly, the Steering Committee session would be preceded by a symposium on goal 2 of the Amsterdam Declaration. Similar to 2010, the Symposium could be moderated and opened with a keynote address followed by a brief answer and questions session. Subsequently, a panel discussion with maximum 3 to 4 speakers will take place, followed by a moderated question and answer session with all participants.

18. On the basis of a concept note prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau reviewed a list of possible concrete issues to be addressed at the Symposium and decided to focus on the management of sustainable mobility with focus on the urban challenge, including the promotion of mobility management schemes by Governments and industry. The secretariat will circulate a revised concept note based on the discussions of the Bureau and invite Bureau members to suggest speakers.

19. The Bureau considered the proposed THE PEP programme of work for 2011-2012 and requested to update it according to the decisions taken during the Bureau meeting.

20. The Bureau discussed the final electronic questionnaire developed by the secretariat in order to monitor the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration in Member States. The questionnaire would be sent to all THE PEP focal points in July 2011. Based on the replies, the secretariat would produce web reports for each Member State as well as a regional overview for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next session. Based on these, an interim report will be compiled in 2012. A final report of progress achieved would be presented to the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, scheduled for 2014.

21. In order to engage Member States in THE PEP process, the secretariat was requested to send letters for the appointment of focal points to Member States that have not participated in the past two sessions of the Steering Committee.

D. Communication and cooperation

22. The secretariat presented the draft Advocacy Kit for THE PEP focal points to support them in implementing the communication strategy as adopted by the Steering Committee at its 8th session. The kit will be made available to all focal points on CD at the next session of the Steering Committee.

23. The Bureau discussed the opportunity of a side event at the upcoming Europe for Environment Conference in Astana in September 2011 and charged the secretariat with developing a detailed draft programme before the end of July. Austria, France, Georgia and the United States offered to be present at the side event and present good practice examples for integration of transport, health and environment.

24. The main topics addresses at the side event would be THE PEP, factsheets on green jobs and the new HEAT for walking and cycling. As far as possible, all documentation and the side event itself would be offered in English and Russian.

25. Upcoming opportunities for THE PEP to communicate and collaborate include: International Transport Forum in May 2012 in Leipzig (topic: the seamless journey), ASEM Ministerial Meeting of the transport sector from Europe and Asia on 24 and 25 October 2011, Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro on 4-6 June 2012.

26. The secretariat reported on THE PEP side event held at the International Transport Forum in Leipzig on 25 May 2011. The side event launched the updated HEAT for walking and cycling and was very successful in reaching the main target audience, the transport sector.

27. The secretariat also informed the Bureau on the latest developments in the European Environment and Health Process, with the first meeting of the Environment and Health Ministerial Board having been held in May in Paris. The first meeting of the Task Force is to be organized in Slovenia in October 2011. The secretariat was charged with mapping the EH and THE PEP focal points.

28. Additionally, organizations, projects and networks such as PHAN, UNEP, POLIS and CIVITAS are currently being actively engaged as dissemination channels for THE PEP products. Cooperation with UITP shall further be strengthened through their participation in relay race workshops and active involvement in THE PEP Symposium 2011.

E. Next meetings and other business

29. The secretariat reported on the new mechanism for updating the Clearing House and was charged with providing updated information on the usage of the Clearing House.

30. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of funds of UNECE and WHO/Europe that are available for THE PEP.
31. The secretariat and the Bureau expressed their gratitude to Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin from Switzerland for her many years of being actively engaged in and substantially contributing to THE PEP and wished her all the best for her retirement.
32. The Bureau considered its composition and charged the secretariat with exploring potential replacements for the now vacant Bureau seats. Foreseeing a rotation to the transport sector, the Bureau welcomed the offer of Philippe Maler (Advisor to the Director General for Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea of France) to chair the Steering Committee, beginning with its 9th session.
33. The next meeting of the Bureau would be held on 18 November 2011 in Geneva following the 9th session of the Steering Committee.
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