

THE PEP Steering Committee, 7th session
Agenda item 3
Adoption of the reports of the SC and its Bureau

**REPORT OF THE 10th SESSION
OF THE BUREAU OF THE TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)**

7-8 July 2009, Rome, Italy

1. The Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met from 7 to 8 July 2009 in Rome to discuss the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (3HLM) in January 2009 and to prepare for the 7th session of THE PEP Steering Committee, to be held from 22–23 October 2009 in Geneva. It also discussed conclusions from a brainstorming meeting on THE PEP implementation mechanisms held on 7 July.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation). The following Bureau members attended: Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria), Mr. François André (Belgium), Mrs. Sjoukje Faber (the Netherlands), Mrs. Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin (Switzerland), Mr. Mihail Kochubovski (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mrs. Lisa Brodey (United States of America). Mr Vincent Delporte (France) participated as observer.
3. Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Ms. Brinda Wachs (UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division) 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.

A. Implementing the Amsterdam Declaration

4. The Bureau discussed the conclusions from the brainstorming meeting mainly focused on THE PEP relay race (staffette) and THE PEP Partnership. The Bureau concluded that the next phase of THE PEP (2009-2014) would focus on implementation of THE PEP through the following:
 - Continuing inter-governmental process, i.e. sessions of the Steering Committee, its Bureau and High-level Meetings;
 - National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs);
 - Capacity building to support Member States in developing, implementing and evaluating NTHEAPs, if appropriate through THE PEP Partnership; and
 - International exchange and awareness raising, mainly through THE PEP relay races, while continuing to encourage an integrated policy approach.
5. The Bureau underlined the need to strengthen communications and public relations of THE PEP to increase visibility, raise awareness and attract funding. An informal document laying out possibilities for a communication strategy would be available to the Committee in October.
6. The Bureau discussed future financing and resource mobilization in 2009-2014 and reiterated the importance of attracting continuous funds to implement THE PEP. The challenge to identify new financing mechanisms remains to be solved in order to reconcile the need to provide stable funding to THE PEP with limitations due to national practices in donating funds, (e.g. earmarking of funds), as well as the lack of a legally binding mandate for THE PEP.

B. Preparations for 7th Session of the Steering Committee

7. The Bureau considered the draft agenda for the 7th session of the Committee. The session would focus on implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration and on future funding mechanisms. A separate agenda item was added on a communications strategy for THE PEP. The Bureau stressed the need to continue efforts to attract civil society and other stakeholders to the process.

8. The Bureau considered THE PEP draft work plan 2009-2014, including project proposals and budgetary requirements (ECE/AC.21/SC/2009/4/DRAFT). It recommended combining THE PEP implementation mechanisms with the project proposals for a clearer link between the mechanisms and implementation activities. To further elaborate the scope, purpose and implementation of THE PEP Partnership, Austria offered to host a meeting of interested Member States on 30 September 2009.

9. In discussing how to make Steering Committee sessions more lively and with more active participation, the Bureau proposed holding in-depth discussions in a half-day session devoted to one of the four goals of the Amsterdam Declaration. This would extend the Committee session to two full days, followed by a half day meeting of the Bureau.

C. THE PEP workshops on sustainable and healthy urban transport

10. The Bureau was informed of upcoming workshops, including one on Safe and Healthy Walking and Cycling in Urban Areas (24-25 September 2009, Pruhonice - Prague) to kick-off THE PEP relay races and another on sustainable and healthy urban transport in South East Europe, focused on integrated policy approaches, tentatively planned for 2010 in Skopje. The Chairman informed the Bureau that the Russian Federation was considering organizing a workshop on sustainable and efficient urban transport in Moscow in 2010.

D. Next meetings and other business

11. France presented their experiences developing the 2nd National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP). It included several chapters on sustainable urban transport and cycling and walking and could serve as a useful example for other Member States on the integration of transport-related topics into existing environment and health policies. A summary would be made available to the Steering Committee in October.

12. The Bureau considered its composition and its next chair, foreseeing a rotation to the environment sector. THE PEP website's layout has been adapted to the UNECE style and it would be further updated and streamlined with the health-related pages within the WHO/Europe web site.

13. The Bureau was informed that a Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) to provide contributions to the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would take place in Geneva in November 2009 and would include transport as one of the topics. It was recommended that THE PEP be covered in the background documentation.

14. WHO informed on the preparation of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, to take place in March 2010 in Parma. A proposal to organize a side event on THE PEP would be submitted to the WHO secretariat. The current draft of the conference declaration referred to THE PEP.

15. Austria informed on the preparations of the 14th European Conference on Mobility Management (ECOMM) from 5 to 7 May 2010 in Graz. The possibility to organize a session on THE PEP is envisaged. Communication between THE PEP and the European Commission was encouraged, especially with regard to the White Paper on Transport.

16. The next meeting of the Bureau would be held on 23 October 2009 in Geneva following the Steering Committee meeting. The following meeting of the Bureau would take place at WHO in Rome on 14 December 2009 at lunchtime to 15 December afternoon.