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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

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

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

**Introduction**

1. At its fifth session, the Steering Committee on the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) (hereinafter “the Committee”) reviewed progress made on its work programme since its last meeting in April 2006 and discussed the preparation for a third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, scheduled to be held in autumn 2008.
2. The session was attended by representatives from the following 22 countries: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Malta, the Netherlands, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The European Commission (EC) was represented, as were the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Cyclist’s Federation and the International Union of Railways (UIC).
3. Participants were welcomed by Dr. Carlos Dora, Public Health and the Environment Department, World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters and by Mr. Patrice Robineau, Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

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4. The extended Bureau met on 18 April to further discuss the preparations for the third High-level Meeting. The report of the Bureau meeting is appended (annex I).

## **I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

5. The Committee adopted the agenda of its fifth session as prepared by the secretariats of the UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe (collectively referred to hereafter as “the secretariat”) in consultation with the Bureau (ECE/AC.21/2007/1 – EUR/07/THEPEPST/1).

## **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **A. Election of the Chairperson**

6. The Committee elected Mr. François André, Attaché, FPS Health, Food Chain Safety Environment, Service for International & Horizontal Affairs, Belgium. Mr. André succeeded Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of the Division of Transport, Mobility, Human Settlements and Noise, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, Austria.

### **B. Election of the members of the Bureau**

7. The Committee elected the following two new Bureau members representing the transport sector: Mr. Marc Strauss, Head, European Affairs Division, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure, Tourism and the Sea, France; and Mrs. Sjoukje Faber, Senior Policy Adviser on Environment and Health Issues, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the Netherlands.

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU**

8. The Committee adopted the reports of its fourth session, held in Geneva on 10 and 11 April 2006 (ECE/AC.21/2006/10 – EUR/06/5046206/10), and of the meeting of its Bureau, held on 15 December 2006 in Rome (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/2 – EUR/07/5068055/2).

## **IV. THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (2008)**

9. The Committee provided guidance on the preparation for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (hereinafter “the HLM”) scheduled to take place in the autumn of 2008. In particular, it considered and took decisions on the issues and proposals reflected in document ECE/AC.21/2006/9-EUR/06/5068055/9, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

### **A. Overarching theme of the Meeting**

10. At its fourth session, the Committee recommended the formulation of an overarching substantive theme for the HLM, to maximize the participation of ministers and other high-level representatives. The Committee proposed various themes that reflected priority issues across the three sectors. It was considered important that the theme also reflect the needs and concerns of the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus (EECCA) and South-eastern Europe (SEE).

11. The Committee agreed that:

(a) The overarching theme for the HLM should maximize political interest, ownership and participation across the three sectors, as well as harness further recognition, support and resources for THE PEP. This would constitute a key challenge and priority for action and would highlight the value-added of THE PEP. Delegations felt that the overarching theme should be related to transport, health and environment and reflect the substantive work carried out by THE PEP, in particular its tripartite and pan-European nature;

(b) While climate change could be an attractive theme for a ministerial panel discussion during the HLM, it might not be appropriate for the overarching theme;

(c) The theme should be formulated in such a way as to attract in particular transport sector decision-makers.

12. A revised list of proposed themes discussed by the extended Bureau is in annex II.

### **B. Main documentation**

(i) Review of transport developments and their effects on health and the environment in the UNECE–WHO/Europe region (1997–2007)

13. The Committee endorsed the structure and main issues highlighted in the outline for the review report. It was agreed that this report should provide the evidence basis for the HLM, based on background statistics, drawing on available information, including data from international organizations and Member States, in particular from EECCA and SEE. Case studies and examples from national, regional and local levels and related statistics should be included in the review report. In addition to reviewing legally binding instruments, the Committee recommended including information on soft law measures or instruments as well as public-private partnerships.

(ii) Assessment of the policy response to date by UNECE and WHO/Europe member countries – focus on THE PEP (2009–2012)

14. The secretariat presented the preliminary results of the questionnaire on “policy integration, modal shift and sustainable urban transport: assessment of the policy response to

date by UNECE and WHO/Europe Member States, with a focus on THE PEP". Information was provided by the following 12 countries on progress made at the national level in the priority areas of THE PEP, its main successes, and weaknesses and recommendations for increasing its effectiveness: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Malta, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The secretariat agreed to circulate the questionnaire to Member States which not yet replied, requesting responses by 15 May 2007. Following a reminder sent after the session, replies were received by Armenia and Norway.

15. The Committee underlined the importance of comprehensive replies to the questionnaire, as this information would provide crucial input into the preparation of the assessment report for the HLM and give strategic direction for the way forward. In addition to providing a framework for integration of policies and a catalyst for projects impacting the three sectors, it was agreed that THE PEP should facilitate and provide tools to implement projects at local and regional levels. This aspect should be reflected in the assessment report, by providing case studies and good practice.

(iii) Ministerial declaration

16. Lead countries informed the Committee about planned next steps on the preparation of a ministerial declaration to be adopted at the HLM. It was reiterated that the declaration should be concise and concentrate on commitments for future activities. The Committee discussed the agreed objectives for the declaration as reflected in document ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/3; document EUR/07/5068055/3 and reiterated the commitment to engaged participation in drafting the declaration made by the lead countries (in parentheses):

(a) **Objective 1:** To strengthen Member States' commitment to greater integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level (Belgium and Czech Republic);

(b) **Objective 2:** To reinforce the role of THE PEP as a platform for promoting greater policy integration and sustainable transport development throughout the UNECE and WHO/Europe regions, in particular in the field of urban transport (France and the United Kingdom);

(c) **Objective 3:** To focus on the challenges faced by EECCA and SEE countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Georgia and Russian Federation);

(d) **Objective 4:** To identify priorities for future work in transport, health and environment within THE PEP by adjusting or complementing the priorities selected in 2002 as needed (Austria and Netherlands).

17. While it was felt that objectives 1 and 2 were clearly articulated, objectives 3 and 4 needed further consideration to develop concrete proposals.

18. The Committee entrusted the extended Bureau (open to all Member States) to assist the secretariat in the preparation of the HLM, including elements for a draft declaration to be submitted to Member States for negotiation at the sixth meeting of the Committee scheduled for April 2008. The Committee session would serve as a preparatory meeting for the HLM and would be the final opportunity for the Committee to review and endorse the main documents for the HLM. The secretariat would draft elements for the political declaration for the consideration of the extended Bureau.

**C. Programme: Structure of the Meeting, speakers, chairpersons**

19. The Committee agreed that the HLM should focus on key emerging issues that are relevant for the region that also have global significance. The meeting could begin with two or three keynote speeches, to be followed by panel discussions with the participation of ministers representing the three sectors, members of civil society and international financial institutions (IFIs). Discussions could take place in parallel sessions addressing the main priorities of THE PEP and future challenges. This could be followed by discussion and adoption of the ministerial declaration. Delegations were invited to propose chairs for the parallel sessions. To increase the likelihood of participation at a sufficiently high level, it would be important to have notable speakers.

20. The first announcements of the meeting should be transmitted to Ministers by autumn 2007. The Committee entrusted the extended Bureau to develop a draft agenda for the HLM.

**D. Preparatory process**

21. The Committee agreed to hold the HLM in autumn 2008, depending on support forthcoming from a Member State. As noted above, the Steering Committee would finalize the key documentation for the HLM. The suggestion was made to hold a preparatory meeting and/or workshop in an EECCA country to highlight issues of relevance to that region, depending on support from a Member State. The Committee invited countries to consider hosting the HLM and EECCA countries to consider hosting a preparatory meeting and/or workshop. The Committee agreed the following schedule for preparing the HLM:

(a) An extended Bureau meeting on 24 June 2007 in Prague, to further discuss the theme, format and organization of the meeting, including possible speakers;

(b) An extended Bureau meeting on 10 December 2007 in Rome (WHO/Europe), to consider the review report, the assessment report, the draft declaration and prepare the provisional agenda for the HLM;

(c) The sixth session of the Committee, probably in April 2008 in Geneva, to be preceded by a preparatory meeting/workshop in an EECCA country, depending on the offer and availability of a Member State in the region;

(d) A final preparatory meeting (if necessary) between the sixth session and the day before the HLM, to finalize the political declaration.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

### A. Progress reports and proposals for further action

22. The Committee was informed of progress in the implementation of its work programme since its previous session and provided guidance on future work.

#### (i) Clearing House on Transport, Health and Environment

23. The Committee was informed about technical and substantive work carried out by the secretariat during the present pilot operation phase of the Clearing House on Transport, Health and Environment (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/4–EUR/07/5068055/4). Due to lack of resources, the secretariat was compelled to keep the Clearing House in “automatic” mode, i.e. providing basic technical maintenance and the required verification and authorization of uploaded data and information. The originally foreseen services of a content manager who would have ensured the necessary interaction with users and information providers could not be provided.

24. At present, around 260 experts are authorized to upload information onto the Clearing House in English, French and Russian, 32 from EECCA countries and 35 from SEE countries. Little information is available at present in the Clearing House on national studies, research and governmental policies of these countries, with on average of around 1000 page visits per month. Most visitors are from countries in Western Europe and from the United States, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Detailed statistics on the operation of the Clearing House in 2006 were made available during the session.

25. The Committee underlined the importance of the Clearing House to give visibility to the cross-sectoral nature of THE PEP and to highlight interagency cooperation. Moreover, the Clearing House is an easily accessible mechanism for the dissemination of information on all THE PEP activities and for the exchange of information on sustainable transport policies, legislation, research and good practice among countries in the pan-European region.

26. Given the present uncertainties about available resources for the sustained operation of the Clearing House, the Committee decided to prolong the pilot operation during 2007 and to use the remaining extrabudgetary resources for this purpose.

#### (ii) Sustainable urban transport and land-use planning

27. The Georgian delegation informed the Committee about the outcome of the South Caucasian Workshop on Sustainable Urban Transport and Land-use Planning, held in Tbilisi from 18 to 20 October 2006 to raise awareness, exchange good practice and build capacity. The Committee thanked the Government of Georgia for hosting the Tbilisi workshop, which could lay the groundwork for further work on capacity-building in EECCA and SEE countries. The delegation of Moldova expressed interest in holding a follow-up workshop and would contact the secretariat to develop the topic and to discuss the resource requirements (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/5 – EUR/07/5068055/5).

28. Proposals for possible follow-up to the workshop included: (a) monitoring the implementation of recommendations and reporting on results achieved at the Committee as a regular exercise; (b) a follow-up subregional workshop on urban transport in EECCA and SEE to help strengthen collaboration among the three sectors and to address the challenges related to transport and a survey of citizens' travel preferences and perceptions. The outcome of these workshops should be used as input into the HLM. Ministers' attention should be drawn to the urban transport challenges in EECCA/SEE and the role of THE PEP.

29. The Chair thanked Switzerland and the Netherlands for supporting the workshop and Georgia for organizing it. He thanked Moldova for expressing the interest in holding a follow-up workshop in late 2007.

(iii) Transport-related health impacts and their costs and benefits, with a particular focus on children – Toolbox on Transport, Environment and Health

30. The Committee was informed about progress made in the development of a Toolbox for action on transport, environment and health (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/6–EUR/07/5068055/6), including the outcome of the third day of the Tbilisi workshop, which contributed to the Toolbox's development with the presentation of tools for assessing the health and environment impacts of urban transport and of the outcomes of their pilot use in Georgia. The Committee was informed about the progress made in developing methods for the economic valuation of transport-related health effects in children, with the support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

31. The Committee welcomed the work done on the Toolbox and the interest of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) and of the International Union of Railways (UIC) in supporting the project.

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

32. The Committee was informed by the delegation of Germany about the development of a brochure for policymakers on institutional arrangements for policy integration. (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/7–EUR/07/5068055/7). The Committee agreed to incorporate the legal basis for institutional arrangements and to include voluntary initiatives such as public-private partnerships. The Chairman thanked Germany for its offer and requested it to proceed with the preparation of the brochure and to present it for discussion to the Bureau at its next meeting on 10 December 2007 in Rome.

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

33. The Committee was informed about developments in the promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas, including a workshop to be held in Graz, Austria, on 15 and 16 May 2007 on the development of guidance on the inclusion of health effects related to physical activity through cycling and walking into economic valuation of transport infrastructure and policies (ECE/AC.21/SC/2007/8–EUR/07/5068055/8). In addition, information was provided on the

WHO Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity (Istanbul, Turkey, 15–17 November 2006). As a main outcome of the conference, a Charter has been endorsed which recognized the benefits of physical activity beyond obesity prevention and supported the creation of opportunities for daily physical activity, such as the promotion of cycling and walking through better urban design and transport policies. THE PEP is referred to in the Charter as one of the related international policy frameworks.

34. A new online inventory of documents on physical activity promotion was presented which will be developed further in close coordination with THE PEP Clearing House and the Toolbox on Transport, Environment and Health. A new publication on 48 case studies from across the region on collaboration between the health and transport sectors in promoting physical activity promotion was made available to delegations.

35. The Committee welcomed the progress made and thanked Austria and Sweden for supporting the project on the economic valuation of cycling and walking, as well as Switzerland for support provided to the case studies project. It encouraged the use of the results of the work in the preparation of the HLM.

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

36. Based on a document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/AC.21/2007/9 – EUR/07/5068055/9) the Committee welcomed the detailed information provided about the use of all 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 2006–2007 work programme of THE PEP. The secretariat document also contained a list of projects and activities with estimated cost figures that required funding from donors in order to ensure implementation of the approved work programme.

37. The Committee stressed the importance of ensuring sustainable funding for the implementation of THE PEP. In view of the limited financial possibilities of the UNECE and WHO/Europe regular budgets, the Committee acknowledged that voluntary donations and in-kind contributions were necessary to ensure implementation of the key activities and projects, including assistance to facilitate the participation of experts from EECCA and SEE countries in THE PEP meetings.

### **VI. ENHANCING COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES**

38. The Committee was informed about ongoing collaboration between THE PEP and related international processes, including:

(a) The fifteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (30 April–11 May 2007) on sustainable energy, air pollution and climate change issues;

(b) The midterm review of the implementation of the Budapest Conference commitments (13–15 June 2007);



(c) The Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (10–12 October 2007).

39. The Committee discussed possible collaboration between THE PEP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in developing guidance for assessing the public health aspects of EBRD’s transport and road infrastructure projects.

#### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

40. With a view to assisting the European Commission in the preparation of a Green Paper on Urban Transport, the Committee invited the secretariat to inform the European Commission on the objectives, priorities, activities and results achieved by THE PEP and to highlight possible synergies, including participation in the HLM.

#### **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

41. The Committee agreed that its sixth session would be held in spring 2008 in Geneva. The exact dates and the location of the meeting would be transmitted to the Committee in due time.

## Annex I

### **REPORT OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE**

1. The extended Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met on 18 April 2007, its first meeting held to prepare the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (hereinafter HLM). The meeting was chaired by Mr. François André (Belgium).
2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting: Ms. Narin Panariti (Albania), Mr. François André (Belgium), Ms. Hristina Mileva (Bulgaria), Mr. Jiří Bendel (Czech Republic), Mr. Xavier Delache (France), Dr. Manana Juruli and Ms. Nino Tkhilava (Georgia), Ms. Zsuzsanna Bibók (Hungary), Ms. Lorraine Bout (the Netherlands), Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Mr. Ján Janiga (Slovakia), Ms. Ursula Ulrich and Ms. Judith Binder (Switzerland), Mr. Nigel Dotchin (United Kingdom) and Mr. Chuck Ashley (United States).
3. Dr. Sonja Kahlmeier and Ms. Francesca Racioppi (WHO) and Mr. Jaromir Cekota, Mr. Martin Magold, Ms. Christina von Schweinichen and Ms. Brinda Wachs (UNECE) participated on behalf of the secretariat of THE PEP.
4. The Bureau discussed the preparations for the HLM, including a list of possible keynote speakers to attract high-level participation, possible themes (see annex II), the importance of delegating tasks and including an artistic component, such as a design, drawing or film competition on the themes, posters and media-friendly flyers or brochures.
5. Some participants recalled discussions that had taken place before the second HLM regarding the pros and cons of the development of a Framework Convention on Transport, Environment and Health.
6. The possibility of holding both an NGO (non-governmental organization) forum and youth forum was explored, as well as the idea of organizing specific side events or panel discussions on future-oriented issues such as partnerships on fuels, urban air pollution, private-public-partnerships on walking and cycling and cooperation with IFIs.

#### Next meeting

7. The next meeting of the extended Bureau would be held in Telč, Czech Republic, on 24 June 2007 in advance of the Workshop on the Toolbox (25–26 June, 2007), followed by a meeting of the extended Bureau on 10 December 2007 in Rome.

**Annex II**

**List of possible themes for the Third High-level Meeting on Transport,  
Health and Environment**

1. Moving Ahead: Green Cities for a Healthy Tomorrow
2. Smarter Transport: Improving Health and the Environment for the Welfare of Our Children
3. Moving Ahead: Urban Transport for a Sustainable Future
4. Sustainable Transport: Healthier, Safer and Greener, for the People and Future Generations
5. Healthy Transport for the Future of Our Children
6. Smarter Choices: Transport for a Healthier Greener Future
7. Friendly Transport: Healthy Generations
8. Moving Ahead: Transport Options for Prosperity, Health and Environment
9. Transport Options for Prosperity, Health and Environment: Are We Moving in the Right Direction?
10. Transport, Health, Environment: Are We Moving in the Right Direction?