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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

THE PEP Steering Committee

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR
TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE
PEP)**

Geneva, 10-11 April 2003

INTRODUCTION

1. The first session of the Steering Committee for Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP Steering Committee) was convened as mandated by the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health held in Geneva on 5 July 2002¹.

2. The session was attended by representatives from the following 29 member States: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,

¹ Summary Report of the Second High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (ECE/AC.21/2002/6-EUR/02/5040828/6). (All the documents and further information are available on THE PEP website <http://www.unece.org/the-pep>)

Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America. The European Commission (EC), European Environment Agency (EEA) Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), and the following non-governmental organizations also took part: International Touring Alliance (AIT) / Federation of International Automobile Transport (FIA) and International Road Federation (IRF).

3. On the afternoon of 9 April 2003, back-to-back to the session, informal consultations for the Newly Independent States (NIS) and South-East European Countries were held to discuss the specific concerns, expectations and contributions of these countries in relation to the implementation of the activities in THE PEP work plan that were on the agenda of the Steering Committee.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda of its first session as contained in document ECE/AC.21/2003/1–EUR/03/5040828/1.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) Election of a chair and two vice-chairs

5. In accordance with the decision of the second High-level Meeting, each session of the Steering Committee will be chaired by a representative of one of the sectors of transport, environment and health, with two vice-chairs representing the other two sectors. The chairmanship will rotate annually between the three sectors. For its first session, THE PEP Steering Committee elected Mr. Zaal LOMTADZE, Deputy Minister of the Environment of Georgia as Chairman and Mr. Jaroslav VOLF, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic and Mr. Risto SAARI, Senior Officer, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland as co-Vice-chairmen.

(b) Election of members of the Bureau

6. In line with the decision of the second High-level Meeting, the Steering Committee established a Bureau, which will meet bi-annually to prepare the meetings and to follow-up on the decisions of the Steering Committee. The Committee elected twelve members of its Bureau representing the three sectors and the different parts of the region on an equal footing². The health sector representatives were elected as follows: Mrs. Ursula Ulrich-Vötlin, Head of Health and Environment Unit, Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland; Mr. François André, Deputy Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and the

² The Italian delegation requested to note that they were not consulted regarding the choice of Bureau Members.

Environment, Belgium; Mr. David Hohman, Senior International Health Advisor, United States of America and Mr. Jaroslav Volf, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic. The transport sector will be represented by Mr. Vadim Donchenko, Research Director, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation; Mr. Bertjan Griffioen, Counsellor, Division for International Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Netherlands; Mr. Risto Saari, Senior Officer Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland and Mr. Nigel Dotchin, Head of Branch, Department of Transport, United Kingdom. The environment sector representatives within the Bureau are Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of Division, Transport, Mobility, Human Settlements, Noise, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, Austria; Mr. Xavier Delache, Deputy Director, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, France; Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Georgia and Ms. Zsuzsanna Bibok, Head, Department for Integrated Pollution Control, Ministry for Environment and Water, Hungary.

III. RULES OF PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

(a) Rules of procedure of the Steering Committee

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2003/1–EUR/03/5040828/1, annex.

7. In addition to its Terms of Reference adopted by the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, the Steering Committee adopted its rules of procedure as contained in annex 1 to this report.

(b) Organization of work of the Steering Committee

Documentation: Informal Documents No. 1 and 2 (2003).

8. The secretariat informed the Steering Committee of the establishment of a network of Focal Points for the follow-up to THE PEP to ensure efficient communication between the secretariat and the member States, as well as to facilitate contacts and coordination between countries and the relevant organizations in the region (Informal Document No. 2 (2003)).

9. The Steering Committee was also given a brief account of voluntary donations received for the implementation of the activities under THE PEP, as well as of the institutional arrangements and administrative procedures in use within the two organizations to receive financial contributions.

Informal document No. 1 (2003) containing bank details of the UNECE and WHO/Euro for transfer of funds was made available at the session.

10. The secretariat thanked member States for their pledges and stressed that countries and organizations might also choose to support the implementation of the activities in THE PEP work plan by other means deemed appropriate, e.g. by providing in-kind contributions such as hosting task force meetings and workshops or by providing consultancies or secondments.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PEP WORK PLAN: DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2003-2005

11. The Steering Committee reviewed the proposed draft programme of work (2003-2005) and considered in detail four project proposals that had been submitted for approval (items IV a-d).

(a) Clearing House on Transport, Environment and Health

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2003/2-EUR/03/5040828/2.

12. Following discussions on the project proposal for the establishment of a web-based Clearing House, the Steering Committee endorsed the overall project, concept and phased approach to implementation of a Clearing House on Transport, Environment and Health (THE PEP Clearing House).

13. The Steering Committee decided to establish a Task Force to provide guidance on technical and policy aspects during the phase of conceptual design of THE PEP Clearing House. It also adopted the Terms of Reference of the Task Force as contained in annex 2 to this report. Member States and organizations representing the transport, environment and health sectors were invited to appoint experts to participate in the work of the Task Force on substantive and technical issues. The secretariat will facilitate the work of the Task Force.

14. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of THE PEP Clearing House for the dissemination of information on all implementation activities carried out under THE PEP.

(b) Urban plans for transport sustainable for health and the environment

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2003/3-EUR/03/5040828/3.

15. The Steering Committee considered a project focusing on the integration of urban transport, health and sustainable development. It acknowledged the relevance of the project in particular for the Newly Independent States (NIS) and the South-Eastern European countries. The importance of ensuring the involvement of local authorities was underlined.

16. The Steering Committee welcomed the invitation by Cyprus to hold a workshop from 16 to 19 November 2003 to review and discuss good practices and lessons learned on sustainable and healthy urban planning through case-studies. The secretariat was requested to follow-up with Cyprus and to develop the workshop programme and timetable, in consultation with the Bureau. The secretariat was also asked to propose a common framework for the presentation of the case studies (e.g. looking at evidence of effectiveness of policy actions on health).

17. The Steering Committee decided that the development of the proposed guidelines on sustainable and healthy urban planning should be reconsidered at its second session, taking account of the outcome of the workshop hosted by Cyprus in November 2003.

18. The Steering Committee took note of a project recently started in Switzerland, aiming at reviewing good practices, guidelines and policies on non-motorized transport. It welcomed the offer of Switzerland to consider expanding the scope of this work to include other policies and guidelines relevant for healthy and sustainable urban transport in order to provide background material to the Cyprus workshop.

19. A few countries announced their readiness to contribute to the workshop with case studies. Other countries were invited to consider the possibility to also contribute to the workshop and to provide case studies.

(c) Transport related health impacts and their costs

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2003/4-EUR/03/5040828/4.

20. The Steering Committee welcomed and endorsed a project submitted by Austria, France, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland on transport-related health impacts and their costs

and expressed the view that, to the extent possible, the scope of the project should be extended to cover the whole pan-European region.

21. The Steering Committee acknowledged the existence of relevant studies in different countries, and invited member States to make them available to the project. It also encouraged an active participation in the project through participation in the workshops, leadership for topics not yet addressed (road safety, climate change and water and soil pollution), participation in an advisory group and appointment of country experts.

22. The Steering Committee took note of the invitation to participate in the forthcoming workshops to be held in Vienna (24-25 April 2003) and in Sweden (12-13 June 2003).

(d) **Establishment of a set of indicators to monitor the integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policies and the impact of these policies on health and the environment**

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2003/5 -EUR/03/5040828/5.

23. The Steering Committee discussed a project proposal on the establishment of indicators to monitor the integration of environmental health aspects into transport policies and the impact of these policies on health and the environment. It acknowledged the relevance and importance of the project and endorsed it.

24. The Steering Committee decided to establish a Task Force including experts from the relevant organizations (EEA, UNECE, WHO, UNEP, ECMT, OECD) as well as experts from member States, to provide guidance on the further development of the project, building on existing work and in light of resources available. Relevant organizations and member States were invited to appoint experts to take part in the work of the Task Force.

25. The Committee agreed on implementing the project in phases and proposed the following directions to be taken:

- Focus on methodological aspects of the indicators;
- Definition of a restricted set of indicators, using as much as possible existing data;
- Extension of the geographical scope to cover the pan-European region;
- Introduction and development of new indicators as knowledge becomes available;

- Establishment of a network of technical focal points (e.g. taking as model and possibly building on the EEA network of contact points).

(e) **Other activities**

26. Under this agenda item delegations were invited to present other projects for implementation of the THE PEP work plan.

27. It was stressed that, although it is necessary to focus the limited resources available on the implementation of the programme of work for 2003-2005, as adopted by the Steering Committee, proposals for additional activities should be considered in a flexible and pragmatic manner. The Steering Committee agreed that, between its annual sessions, new project proposals could be put forward for approval by the Bureau.

28. The Steering Committee took note of and welcomed the project proposals and expressions of interest by the following countries:

- Netherlands: Improving of driver behaviour by extending the eco-driver training project it is carrying out in Latvia to cover, as a first step, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. The focus of this project will be on training and examination for heavy-duty vehicle's drivers.
- Russian Federation: Harmonization of the methodologies for measuring the impacts of transport on environment and health, improving the legal basis in the countries to promote sustainable transport and improving the system to control the quality of fuels;
- United Kingdom: Public participation in transport-related environment and health issues;
- Switzerland and Austria: Projects on sensitive areas.

29. The Steering Committee encouraged member States to consider new projects and to extend the scope of the those projects that are currently being carried out on a more limited scale.

V. OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

30. The Steering Committee was informed that the forthcoming session of the ECMT Council of Ministers, to be held in Brussels on 23 and 24 April 2003, was expected to consider strategic options for sustainable transport policy and to take note of the conclusions of a Seminar on "Managing the Fundamental Drivers of Transport Demand". The Council would also consider reforms of transport taxes and charges

and the establishment of a procedure for monitoring such reforms in accordance with guidelines prepared by the ECMT. Finally the Council was expected to adopt resolutions on assessment and decision-making for integrated transport and environment policy as well as on the introduction of sulphur-free fuels throughout the region.

31. The Steering Committee noted also the information provided by the WHO on the preparations of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health “The Future for our Children”, taking place in Budapest on 23-25 June 2004, and of the relevance of THE PEP to the themes and goals of the Conference. Two intergovernmental meetings for the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting will be held in Sweden on 26 and 27 June and in Portugal from 27 to 28 November 2003 respectively.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

32. The Steering Committee decided to hold its second session in late March or early April 2004, on a date to be specified at a later stage.

33. The Steering Committee decided furthermore that its Bureau would hold a meeting at the end of September 2003 as well as back-to-back to the second session of the Steering Committee in spring 2004.

Annex 1

Rules of Procedure for THE PEP Steering Committee³

adopted by the Steering Committee at its first session

on 11 April 2003

Sessions

A session of the Steering Committee shall be convened by the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariats (hereafter: the secretariat) on an annual basis following consultation with the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee.

The sessions of the Steering Committee shall ordinarily be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

Agenda

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee and its Bureau.

The first item on the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Representation

Sessions of the Steering Committee are open for representatives of UNECE and WHO/Euro member States and organizations representing the transport, environment and health sectors.

Officers

The Steering Committee shall elect from among representatives a Chairperson as well as two Vice-chairpersons. The chair will rotate between representatives of the transport, environment and health sectors, each sector taking one of the three posts. The chair shall be maintained between the sessions and shall represent the Steering Committee and the Bureau.

³ The Terms of Reference of THE PEP Steering Committee have been adopted by the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (5 July 2002).

Bureau

The Steering Committee will be assisted by a tripartite Bureau consisting of nine to fifteen members elected by the Steering Committee. The members of the Bureau shall represent the transport, environment and health sectors as well as the different parts of the UNECE and WHO/Euro region on an equal footing. The Bureau is responsible for preparing the meetings of the Steering Committee and for following-up on its decisions. The Bureau will hold biannual meetings.

Secretariat

The Steering Committee, its Bureau and any ad hoc bodies established by the Steering Committee will be serviced by the secretariat which is to be supplemented with the appropriate staffing from the three sectors for this purpose. The secretariat shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings of the Steering Committee, its Bureau and of the ad hoc bodies established by the Steering Committee.

In particular, the secretariat shall provide the following services:

- (a) Overall coordination of the implementation of THE PEP work plan and direct participation in the delivery of THE PEP in close consultation with the Steering Committee and its Bureau, involving:
 - establishment and maintenance of contacts with member States, intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations
 - organization of meetings
 - preparation of background documents
 - monitoring and reporting
 - drafting of reports/publications
 - planning, setting-up of ad hoc working groups/task forces, identification of experts
 - organization and follow-up of activities to be carried out by ad hoc working groups/task forces.
- (b) Participation in dissemination activities to be organized to implement the programme as well as in other intergovernmental fora and major scientific events.
- (c) Participation in and contribution to fund raising activities.

Languages

English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Steering Committee and, to the extent possible, of its Bureau. Ad hoc working groups, task forces and other subsidiary bodies established by the Steering Committee will not be provided with secretariat interpretation facilities and translation of relevant documentation.

Reports

Before the end of each session, the Steering Committee will consider and adopt a list of decisions taken at the session based on the conclusions made by the Chairperson and a draft to be prepared by the secretariat. Following the session, a report will be prepared by the secretariat, including the adopted decisions, and will be transmitted to the participants of the session. Any comments on the report by participants will be taken into account by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson.

The Steering Committee will report on an annual basis to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Relations with other organizations

The Steering Committee will liaise with, inform and cooperate closely with relevant UNECE principal subsidiary bodies, in particular with the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), the Human Settlements Committee, with WHO bodies, in particular the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), with intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations active in the fields of transport, environment and health as well as with international financial institutions.

Amendments and suspensions

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Steering Committee provided that the proposed amendments and suspensions do not set aside the provisions contained thereon in the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee laid down by the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (5 July 2002).

Other provisions

In the absence of other provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee, the rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and those of the WHO/Euro shall be applicable, unless the Steering Committee decides otherwise

Annex 2

Terms of Reference of the Task Force on the conceptual design of THE PEP Clearing House (May 2003 – April 2004)

The Task Force on THE PEP Clearing House will prepare the conceptual design of the proposed THE PEP Clearing House in close cooperation with the UNECE and WHO/Euro secretariat taking into account available experiences and expertise in the establishment and operation of web-based clearing houses.

In particular, the Task Force will prepare guidelines and criteria in the following areas:

A. Content of THE PEP Clearing House

I. Availability and provision of data and information

Issues to be considered (not exhaustive):

Type, structure, quantity and quality of information to be provided (priorities and criteria, information broker and/or provider, etc.)

Exchange of good practices and lessons learned (such as criteria for the identification and selection of case studies, pilot projects, common format for reporting, etc.)

Use of restricted information

Access management to the Clearing House

Who provides/uploads data, where and under which conditions?

Language policy (What information to be translated into UNECE and WHO/Euro working languages? By which mechanism (e.g. complete documents vs. abstracts)?)

II. Target groups (users of data and information)

Issues to be considered (not exhaustive):

Identification of needs (questionnaire to different country and user groups)

Definition of target users: Governmental (central, state, local authorities) and non-governmental authorities, academic circles, private sector, etc.

B. Value added services to be provided by THE PEP Clearing House

Issues to be considered (not exhaustive):

Consultancy services (bilateral-multilateral)

Training and remote learning

Interactive services (feed-back) (Networks of user groups (policy makers, scientists, etc.))

Pool of experts and advisory services

Database services

Analytical services (information analysis, summary services, etc.)

C. Operational and resource requirements

Issues to be considered (not exhaustive):

Maintenance of political and financial support (possible use of UN Regular resources)

Cost effective operation

Central-decentralized management

Commercial approach for services provided (to be explored)

The Task Force will report to the next meeting of the Steering Committee and to its Bureau.

The Task Force will, to the extent possible, work via electronic communication channels that will be established and organized by the secretariat in due course. It may also meet, if required, back-to-back to sessions of the Bureau.

UNECE and WHO/Euro member States and organizations representing the transport, environment and health sectors are invited to nominate experts to participate in the work of the Task Force on technical and substantive issues.
