

**Economic Commission for Europe****World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe****High-level Meeting on Transport, Health
and Environment****Steering Committee of the Transport, Health
and Environment Pan-European Programme**

Twenty-first session
Geneva, 23–25 October 2023

**Report of the Steering Committee of the Transport,
Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
on its twenty-first session****I. Introduction**

1. The Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) held its twenty-first session from 23 to 25 October 2023 in Geneva, with remote participation available for THE PEP workshop (see sect. II below).

A. Attendance

2. Delegations from the following member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) attended the meeting: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. The European Union was also represented.

3. In addition, representatives of the following academic, private sector and civil society associations participated: American Foreign Law Association, European Environment and Health Youth Coalition, International Association of Public Transport, International Transport Forum, Lime, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences and World Bike Industry Association.

4. Representatives of the following intergovernmental, international and regional organizations also attended the meeting: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

5. The joint secretariat (secretariat) was represented by members of the ECE Environment and Sustainable Transport Divisions and WHO/Europe.

B. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

6. The Chair, Mr. Uriel Kaufman (France), welcomed participants and invited member States to engage in the meeting and in future activities implementing the Vienna Declaration (ECE/AC.21/2021/2/Add.1–EUCHP2018924/4.3.2/Add.1).

7. Senior ECE and WHO/Europe officials welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the session of the Steering Committee in view of the ongoing work, including the development of the transport, health and environment strategy foreseen by the Vienna Declaration. They also invited member States to contribute to the discussions on the various agenda items.

8. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting, as prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Steering Committee (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/1–EUCHP2219536/1.1).¹

C. Election of officers

9. At the twentieth session of the Steering Committee (Geneva, 17–19 October 2022), the Steering Committee elected Ms. Biljana Filipović Đušić (Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia) as Chair of THE PEP for the twenty-first session, representing the environment sector, in accordance with the amendment to the rules of procedure of the Steering Committee adopted at its first session (Geneva, 10–11 April 2003) and amended at its eleventh session (Geneva, 27–28 November 2013).²

10. Ms. Filipović Đušić, speaking as the Chair of the meeting, thanked the Steering Committee for electing her to that post, and stated that she looked forward to the fruitful discussions ahead.

11. The Steering Committee also thanked Ms. Vigdis Ronning (Norway) for her hard work in completing her role as the outgoing Vice-Chair, and Mr. Eloïs Divol and his successor Mr. Uriel Kaufman (France) for completing their role as Chair of the Steering Committee and rotating to the position of the outgoing Vice-Chair. The Steering Committee elected Mr. Ion Salaru (Republic of Moldova) as the incoming Vice-Chair, representing the health sector.

12. No new Bureau member was elected in 2023.

13. The Steering Committee adopted the report of its twentieth session (ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2).

II. Transport Planning for the Future

14. The Chair introduced a workshop taking place during the Steering Committee's session on "Transport Planning for the Future" and invited Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin (secretariat) to moderate the event. For the agenda item, remote participation was also made available. The workshop was opened with a keynote speech by Mr. Helge Hillnhütter (Associate Professor and Programme Leader for Urban Planning Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology). The speech was followed by two panel discussions: the first focused on active mobility from a policymaker perspective, with Ms. Nicole Ruch (Scientific Collaborator, Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland) and Mr. Sylvain Haon (Senior Director of Strategy, International Association of Public Transport) intervening; the second was on the role of micromobility in transport and the new e-biking functionality of the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling, with Ms. Mirjana Jovanović (independent transport policy consultant, Serbia), Mr. Enrico

¹ The meeting documentation, including presentations on THE PEP Partnerships and other agenda items, is available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/379655>.

² ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2, para. 9.

11Stefano (Senior Public Policy Manager, Lime) and Ms. Sonja Kahlmeier (Head, Department of Health, Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences) intervening.

15. The main elements touched upon during the workshop included:

- (a) The significance of walking and cycling as active modes of transport;
- (b) The impact of the urban environment on individuals' decisions regarding their transport choices, particularly on how it encouraged walking and its synergy in terms of promoting the use of public transport;
- (c) The importance of intersectoral cooperation in support of healthier and more sustainable transport and mobility;
- (d) Emerging micromobility options as an alternative to cars, and the substitution effect micromobility had on car journeys, as well as active mobility options;
- (e) How HEAT could be utilized to assess the health benefits associated with e-biking.

III. Implementation of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

A. Strategy on transport, health and environment

16. The Chair recalled the mandate received at the Fifth High-level Meeting (Vienna, 17–18 May 2021) to develop a comprehensive pan-European strategy on transport, health and the environment, including a clear pathway for its implementation, to achieve the agreed vision and to guide the further work of THE PEP, for adoption in 2023.³ The Steering Committee, at its nineteenth meeting (Geneva, 27–28 October 2021), had established an ad hoc Working Group on Strategy and Possible Legal Instruments.⁴

17. At its twentieth session, the Steering Committee had decided to modify the timeline for developing the strategy and agreed on the presentation of an advanced draft strategy in autumn 2023 and the finalization of work on the strategy by autumn 2024.⁵

18. In that regard, one of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, supported by a consultant, presented to the Steering Committee the outline of the draft strategy set out in document ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/5–EUCHP2219536/1.1/5. The following comments were received from representatives of the member States in respect of the draft:

- (a) The strategy should prioritize how to reshape transport systems to make them more sustainable. That would involve addressing the evolving mobility trends influenced by an increasing population, alongside emerging trends and technologies such as teleworking;
- (b) The strategy should also emphasize how to make cities more liveable through transit-oriented development and urban spatial planning, with priority given to cycling and walking;
- (c) The strategy should consider challenges faced by cities in transitioning to healthy and sustainable transport, such as insufficient financing for public transport, cycling infrastructure and pedestrian facilities;
- (d) The strategy should also promote regular data collection;
- (e) There might be a need to prioritize or streamline the various actions presented in the strategy, as the existing scope, as presented, required cross-ministerial efforts that might be jeopardized by conflicting priorities amongst ministries, let alone the financial constraints involved in realizing them;

³ ECE/AC.21/2021/2/Add.1–EUCHP2018924/4.3.2/Add.1, para. 3.

⁴ ECE/AC.21/SC/2021/2–EUCHP2018924/4.1/2, paras. 20–25.

⁵ ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2, paras. 21 (f) and 23–24.

(f) The shared objectives presented in the action plan might pose greater challenges for individual member States based on their current circumstances. For instance, doubling the share of cycling might be more difficult for countries where cycling already constituted a high share of transport choices.

19. After balancing the time needed for the consultant to revise the strategy and for member States to consolidate comments internally and at a national level, the Chair asked the Steering Committee to provide written comments to the secretariat by 1 December 2023. That would allow time for the Working Group to review the comments received in the two meetings scheduled before the next Steering Committee session in 2024. The Steering Committee asked the secretariat to provide the final version of the strategy for approval at the next session of the Steering Committee in the three official languages of ECE. The secretariat informed participants that, to allow for translation of the document, work on the strategy would need to be concluded by June 2024.

20. The secretariat then presented to the Steering Committee informal document No. 1 regarding the review of the possible options for legal instruments. The work on legal instruments should be initiated after the current Steering Committee session with a view to finalizing it in 2025, based on the decision made by the Steering Committee at its past session.⁶ The Chair called for nominations of national experts to be part of the open-ended Working Group. She also called for expressions of interest from member States to provide one or more consultants as in-kind contribution, or to provide financial contributions to cover the cost of one or two consultants to support the work of the Working Group on developing legal instruments. A detailed timeline of actions might also be required.

21. A Co-Chair of the Working Group on Strategy and Possible Legal Instruments, emphasized the urgency of the matter, stressing that time was of the essence if the 2025 deadline on the legal instruments were to be met. He therefore asked member States to also provide comments on the possible options for the potential legal instruments set out in informal document No. 1 by 1 December 2023.

22. Representatives of member States commented that:

(a) The scope of potential legal instruments needed to be better defined, including member States' obligations regarding compliance;

(b) Clarity was needed as to what types of legal instrument were considered.

23. The secretariat explained that various conventions and legal instruments had been considered, but that there was no existing legal instrument that addressed transport, health and the environment holistically and in an integrated manner. The task presented was not to duplicate what had already been done, but rather to fill the gaps in the existing legal framework. Any resulting legal instruments would only become binding to countries that became contracting parties thereto, and the exact procedures would depend on how the legal instruments were drafted.

24. The Steering Committee agreed to:

(a) Provide comments on the draft strategy on transport, health and environment (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/5–EUCHP2219536/1.1/5) by 1 December 2023, so as to give the consultant clear guidance on how to identify priorities, and requested the secretariat to prepare the revised strategy in the three official languages of ECE for the next session of the Steering Committee and for publication in 2025;

(b) Provide initial comments also on the informal document on possible legal instruments by 1 December 2023, noting that wider consultations might follow, involving the permanent missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva through guiding questions, and requested the secretariat to prepare an official document in the three official languages of ECE for the next session of the Steering Committee.

⁶ ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2, para. 24 (b).

B. Communication activities

25. The Chair referred to the mandate contained in the Vienna Declaration to develop a communication strategy to disseminate the results of THE PEP and to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public. At its past session, the Steering Committee had requested the secretariat to finalize the strategy and to make it available as an official document in the three official languages of ECE.⁷ A representative of the secretariat presented the draft communication strategy for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/6–EUCHP2219536/1.1/6), as well as different budget package proposals to facilitate the implementation of the strategy.

26. Member States thanked the secretariat for its work and commented that:

(a) The strategy should divide the activities into those at the international level and those at the cross-sectoral level. The secretariat should collect ideas on how to better promote THE PEP at the international level, while member States should consider how to promote THE PEP nationally;

(b) Promotional efforts should focus primarily on policymakers and government bodies, given the financial constraints, although other stakeholders should not be forgotten;

(c) The focus should be placed on showcasing the existing achievements of THE PEP, such as the work carried out through its implementation mechanisms, including THE PEP Partnerships;

(d) It was also important to identify the most cost-effective ways to maximize the visibility of THE PEP.

27. The Chair thanked the secretariat for the presentation and member States for their comments. The Steering Committee adopted the Communication strategy for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/6–EUCHP2219536/1.1/6), noting, however, that financial contributions or pledges to take forward the strategy were pending.

C. Financial matters

28. The secretariat presented the status of THE PEP Trust Fund used in 2022 and 2023, as set out in document ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/3–EUCHP2219536/1.1/3, and highlighted the precarious financial situation of THE PEP Trust Fund. The secretariat underlined that, without an increase in contributions, the possibility to fund the participation of member States in THE PEP meetings would be significantly reduced.

29. The Chair expressed her concern about the financial constraints of the programme and encouraged its members to provide contributions, both financial and in-kind. Additionally, the Chair invited the Steering Committee to identify ways to ensure more sustainable and predictable funding of THE PEP.

30. The Steering Committee adopted the status of THE PEP Trust Fund (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/3–EUCHP2219536/1.1/3) and requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the status of THE PEP Trust Fund to be presented at the twenty-second session of the Steering Committee.

D. Programme of work for 2023–2024

31. The secretariat presented the draft programme of work for 2023–2024 (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/4–EUCHP2219536/1.1/4), showing the work accomplished over the previous year and the expected outputs for the forthcoming year.

32. Member States observed that:

⁷ ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2, para. 27 (c).

(a) The Russian Federation had prepared a Russian-language handbook on the improvement of living conditions in cities and regions by integrating environmental and health policies and objectives into coordinated transport and spatial planning. That activity should be reflected in the programme of work under item 3 of section III of the above-mentioned document. The representative of Norway also suggested that the handbook be translated into English as it might be useful for other member States;

(b) The Sixth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment was scheduled to be held in 2025 and, given the short time frame and current geopolitical context, there were discussions as to whether the event should be postponed.

33. The secretariat reminded the Steering Committee of its role as an implementing body of the High-level Meeting. Thus, any decision to postpone the High-level Meeting should come from the member States, and the Steering Committee could only recommend the postponement of the meeting.

34. The Steering Committee:

(a) Amended the draft programme of work for 2023–2024 (ECE/AC.21/SC/2023/4–EUHP2219536/1.1/4) to:

(i) Modify the text in section III relating to the outputs undertaken in 2023 following comments by the representatives of Norway and the Russian Federation;

(ii) Remove the entry “Initiate preparations for Sixth High-level Meeting” from section IV of the draft programme of work for 2023–2024;

(b) Adopted the draft programme of work for 2023–2024 as amended, and requested the secretariat to prepare a similar document in the three official languages of ECE for the next session of the Steering Committee;

(c) Decided to recommend the postponement of the Sixth High-level Meeting and asked the secretariat to explore the arrangements for the organization of the Sixth High-level Meeting. The secretariat was to organize a meeting of the member States to discuss the Steering Committee’s proposal.

E. Implementation mechanisms of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

35. Representatives of lead countries of the Partnerships took the floor to report on updates since the twentieth session of the Steering Committee.

1. Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility

36. A representative of Austria recalled that, at its first meeting after the Fifth High-level Meeting (Dublin, 19–23 September 2022), the Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility had agreed to work separately on its two mandates: to implement the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion and to develop a pan-European master plan on active mobility, which would include a pan-European master plan on walking.

37. The Steering Committee was told about the three Partnership meetings held in 2023 focused on walking (Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague, Netherlands, 23–25 January; Vienna, 27 April; Lisbon, 14–15 September), which had resulted in the draft structure of the pan-European master plan for walking. In particular, the objectives of the plan and the proposed actions were presented, as discussed in the Partnership meeting held in Lisbon. The Partnership expected to receive the first round of comments on the draft master plan by November 2023 and to have the draft final version presented in the next session of the Steering Committee.

38. On the implementation of the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion, the Partnership had met twice in 2023 (Leipzig, Germany, 8 May; Madrid, 26–27 October). The representative presented an overview of the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Master Plan, in particular the national cycling plans being developed, adopted or

implemented. The Danube Cycle Plans were also presented as an example of how to support the implementation of the Master Plan.

39. In addition, the Steering Committee was informed about the proposed updates to THE PEP European Cycling Master Plan – Infrastructure Module,⁸ prepared in June 2023 in collaboration with the ECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), the Confederation of the European Bicycle Industry and the European Cyclists' Federation.

2. Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility

40. The representative of Austria reported on activities carried out by the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility. The Partnership had met four times since its establishment in 2021 (Vienna, 9–10 September 2021; Madrid, 23–24 May 2022; Utrecht and The Hague, Netherlands, 25–26 January 2023; Vienna, 24–25 April 2023). The speaker presented the development of a toolbox that aimed at pushing forward sustainable mobility in tourism. The seven fields of actions to be covered by the toolbox were also presented. The toolbox was expected to be ready by April or May 2024. The next Partnership meeting was also being scheduled for spring 2024.

41. The representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia expressed interest in joining the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility.

3. Partnership on Eco-Driving

42. The representative of Austria reported on activities carried out by the Partnership on Eco-Driving.

4. Partnership on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility

43. The representative of Austria reported on activities carried out by the Partnership on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility, as well as its meeting in Vienna on 27 April 2023. Since the inception of the Partnership, four networking events and workshops had been organized, including a session at the online ECE Youth Dialogue on 20 December 2022, the OECD International Transport Forum workshop “Youth on the move” (Karlsruhe (hybrid), Germany, 18–19 April 2023) and a networking event with the Global Designing Cities Initiative. The Partnership would meet again in November 2023 in Luxembourg to discuss mobility management and public transport and multimodality.

5. Partnership on Health Economic Assessment Tools

44. The secretariat, leading on the Partnership on Health Economic Assessment Tools, provided the Steering Committee with the following updates:

(a) A new module on electric bicycles had been added to the HEAT for walking and cycling;

(b) A promotional information leaflet on HEAT was currently being developed in four languages (English, French, German and Russian);

(c) A series of HEAT training sessions had been planned for 2024.

6. Partnership on Jobs in Green and Healthy Transport

45. A representative of the secretariat reported that the process of hiring a consultant for the new study on jobs in green and healthy transport in urban logistics was underway. The secretariat would introduce the selected consultant for the study to the Partnership once the contract had been awarded and report on progress on that item in the next Steering Committee session.

⁸ See informal document WP.5 (2020) No. 8, available at <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2023/06/informal-documents/informal-document-08-pep-european-cycling-master>.

7. Partnership on the Integration of Transport, Health and Environmental Objectives into Urban and Spatial Planning

46. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Steering Committee that a handbook compiling the experiences of difference countries on the subject of the agenda item was being prepared. He invited member States and academic institutions that could communicate in Russian to take part in the work.

8. Relay races

47. The representative of Austria presented to the Steering Committee the relay-race workshop that had taken place on 25–27 April 2023 in Vienna, featuring keynote speakers on topics related to active mobility and its contribution to the climate change agenda, as well as mobility management, child- and youth-friendly mobility, eco-driving and driving education. The workshop also included a field trip to Aspern Seestadt near Vienna to showcase the integration of urban planning and mobility management. The main outcomes of the various Partnership meetings were also presented.

48. The Chair informed the Steering Committee that a relay-race workshop, back-to-back with meetings of the Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility, was to be held in Belgrade on 24–25 April 2024. She invited the Steering Committee and the secretariat to join the meeting.

49. The Steering Committee thanked Austria for organizing THE PEP relay race in April 2023 and thanked Serbia for offering to organize the next one in April 2024.

9. Adoption of Partnership descriptions

50. The Steering Committee welcomed updates from THE PEP Partnerships, and welcomed the Netherlands as new co-lead of the extended Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility, currently jointly of THE PEP and the European Environment and Health Process (EHP).

F. Monitoring progress in the implementation of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

51. At its twentieth session, the Steering Committee had requested the secretariat to conduct a survey of the implementation of THE PEP for 2023, using the updated questionnaire, and to present the results using the proposed visualization tools and as an official document in the three official languages of ECE to facilitate the sharing of good practices.⁹

52. A total of 21 countries had participated in the 2023 THE PEP survey. The secretariat presented the report on key findings of the biennial survey set out in informal document No. 2. The following comments were received:

(a) A detailed look into the data and survey results would provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for addressing the needs of THE PEP implementation. It would shed light on the way forward for fully implementing the recommendations, after taking into considerations the potential hurdles in taking forward implementation. Those hurdles included, for example, conflicting priorities between different agencies and ministries. Coordination between the transport, health, environment and spatial planning sectors also needed to be carefully considered;

(b) The results could provide country-specific data on how effectively the principles and objectives of THE PEP were being put into practice;

(c) Member States should be encouraged to participate more actively in THE PEP survey process to better identify areas of success and areas in need of improvement, enabling

⁹ ECE/AC.21/SC/2022/2–EUCHP2219536/1.1/2, para. 56 (d).

policymakers, stakeholders and the secretariat to make informed decisions in order to achieve the objectives of THE PEP;

(d) The secretariat should disseminate ten visuals summarizing the main survey findings.

53. The Steering Committee took note of the 2023 survey results for monitoring of the implementation of THE PEP and their dissemination.

IV. Strengthening synergies with other international organizations and processes

54. The Chair invited the secretariat to report on the key outcomes of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and THE PEP side event (Budapest, 5–7 July 2023), followed by a presentation from the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition about the Budapest Youth Declaration, the EHP Partnership on Youth and other updates regarding youth engagement.

55. A representative of the secretariat stated that over 600 participants from 43 member States, including 35 senior political officials, had attended the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. The Conference had been convened by WHO/Europe in collaboration with ECE and UNEP, under the patronage of the President of Hungary. The main political outcome – the Budapest Declaration – prioritized urgent, wide-ranging action on health challenges related to climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss, along with, and in the context of, recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic situation. By adopting the Budapest Declaration, member States had agreed to accelerate the transition towards resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies, incorporating the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. They sought to increase efforts to prevent, prepare for, detect and respond to emergencies, protecting particularly vulnerable populations. Those actions aimed to enhance the resilience and capacity of health systems to withstand and respond to disasters and crises. In addition, efforts to address the environmental determinants of diseases would be increased.

56. Countries were to use the “Road map for healthier people, a thriving planet and a sustainable future 2023–2030”, which was part of the Declaration. It offered a set of actions that member States could implement to reduce the health consequences posed by the triple environmental crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss. It also proposed steps to strengthen governance, human resources, financing and knowledge for health and the environment.

57. The Declaration also offered countries the possibility to launch EHP Partnerships, a new mechanism within the EHP, to help accelerate the implementation of the vision and commitments made at the Ministerial Conference. The EHP Partnerships brought together countries and partners with a shared interest in a specific thematic area to work together on joint projects, capacity-building activities, training and workshops, the provision of technical assistance, collaboration in innovation and research and the dissemination of relevant WHO guidelines.

58. A representative of the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition then presented the Budapest Youth Declaration 2023, which called for action for immediate and collective efforts to address the pressing environmental and health challenges faced by youth in the WHO European Region. It emphasized the role of youth as key stakeholders in climate action and called for meaningful and inclusive engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes. It acknowledged past improvements but demanded stronger commitments from member States to ensure that meaningful youth participation became a regular practice at all levels of decision-making.

59. A representative of the secretariat stated that, during the Budapest Conference, THE PEP had hosted a side event entitled “Leveraging THE PEP Partnerships to accelerate the transition to healthy, sustainable and climate neutral mobility in the pan-European region”. A new e-biking functionality of HEAT for walking and cycling had been launched, accompanied by a practical demonstration of how the tool could be used to assess the impacts

of e-biking in terms of physical activity benefits, risks from air pollution exposure, crush risk, as well as effects on carbon emissions. The event had showcased the achievements of THE PEP Partnerships and how those Partnerships could accelerate the transition to healthy, sustainable and climate-neutral mobility in the pan-European region. The event had attracted over 60 participants, including high-level representation in the form of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, and active youth participation.

60. The secretariat also informed the Steering Committee about the inaugural celebration of the first United Nations World Sustainable Transport Day (Palais des Nations, Geneva, 24 November 2023), organized jointly by ECE and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Members of the Steering Committee were invited to join the celebration in person.

61. The representative of UNEP commented that:

(a) The involvement of the United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety in future activities of THE PEP should be considered;

(b) The WHO work on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing could be linked to THE PEP;

(c) UNEP and WHO would have a pavilion during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023) to promote THE PEP.

62. The Steering Committee:

(a) Welcomed the outcome of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (5–7 July 2023, Budapest), the holding of a side event on THE PEP, the extended THE PEP/EHP Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility and the Budapest Youth Declaration;

(b) Also welcomed the organization by ECE of the Geneva-based celebrations for the first United Nations World Sustainable Transport Day on 24 November 2023, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

V. Other business

63. No information was presented under the agenda item.

VI. Date and venue of the next session of the Steering Committee and of the next Bureau meetings

64. The Steering Committee:

(a) Took note of the dates of upcoming meetings under THE PEP of:

(i) The ad hoc Working Group, to be held in February and April 2024;

(ii) The Bureau, with dates to be agreed among the Bureau members;

(iii) Partnerships, with the Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility meeting to be held on 22–25 April 2024 in Belgrade;

(b) Mandated the secretariat to organize the twenty-second session of the Steering Committee with interpretation and supporting official documents in the three official languages of ECE, as identified through the secretariat and the Bureau and through the regular budget of ECE;

(c) Took note of the dates of its twenty-second session, 28–30 October 2024, to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva;

(d) Requested the secretariat to prepare the report of the current session.

65. The Steering Committee adopted the decisions taken at the session, as read out by the secretariat.

VII. Closing of the meeting

66. The Chair thanked all member States for their support and activities within THE PEP and closed the meeting.
