

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Seventeenth session

Geneva, 2–5 November 2010

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe”

Ministerial Conference: draft agenda

(as of 4 November 2010, 4 p.m.)

**Draft annotated provisional agenda for the Seventh
“Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference and adoption of the agenda.
2. The “Environment for Europe” process: 20 years of pan-European cooperation.
3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems.
4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy.
5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development.
6. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussion under the thematic segments.
7. Adoption of Conference outcomes.
8. Closure of the Conference.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda *!!! to be revised !!!*

Annex

Table 1. Possible key questions for discussion at the Conference (as agreed by the Committee on 4 Nov 2010, 4 p.m.)**Item 3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems**

- (a) Which policies proved to be effective to value and protect water-related ecosystems, including the payment for ecosystem services? What are the main obstacles and gaps?
- (b) What policies proved to be effective in addressing human health issues related to water quality and quantity? What are the main obstacles and gaps?
- (c) What are the priorities/challenges in adapting management of water and water-related ecosystems to extreme weather events and to climate change?
- (d) What are the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation in transboundary basins to improve water quality, manage water quantity and protect ecosystems?

Item 4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy

- (a) What policy mixes and practical tools, such as IWRM, pricing, standards, and water users associations, can be most effective to improve water efficiency by different water users, especially in agriculture, households and industrial operations?
- (b) How can we encourage investments to take into account the impacts on water quantity and water quality, energy and resource efficiency, and vulnerable populations?

Item 5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development

- (a) What policy mixes have the potential to secure the achievement of a green, inclusive, and competitive economy, through an integrated approach, including sectors such as transport, housing, energy, agriculture and education?
- (b) How can resource efficiency improve sustainability and competitiveness in local, regional and global markets?
- (c) How can research, innovation and investment help the transition towards a green economy?
- (d) How could the “Environment for Europe” process contribute to outcomes on green economy in the context of UNCSD 2012 (Rio+20)?

Table 2. Time frame for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

<i>Tuesday, 21 September</i>	<i>Wednesday, 22 September</i>	<i>Thursday, 23 September</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Registration (9 a.m.–2p.m.)</i> ▪ <i>Greening-the-conference-related events for the Heads of Delegation organized by the host country, such as planting trees, riding bikes, etc. (11.00 a.m.–noon.)</i> 	<p><u>3. Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems</u> <i>(one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i> <i>Questions for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Which policies proved to be effective to value and protect water-related ecosystems, including the payment for ecosystem services? What are the main obstacles and gaps? (b) What policies proved to be effective in addressing human health issues related to water quality and quantity? What are the main obstacles and gaps? (c) What are the priorities/challenges in adapting management of water and water-related ecosystems to extreme weather events and to climate change? (d) What are the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation in transboundary basins to improve water quality, manage water quantity and protect ecosystems? 	<p><u>5. Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development</u> <i>(one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i> <i>Questions for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What policy mixes have the potential to secure the achievement of a green, inclusive, and competitive economy, through an integrated approach, including sectors such as transport, housing, energy, agriculture and education? (b) How can resource efficiency improve sustainability and competitiveness in local, regional and global markets? (c) How can research, innovation and investment help the transition towards a green economy? (d) How could the “Environment for Europe” process contribute to outcomes on green economy in the context of UNCSD 2012 (Rio+20)?
<p>Lunch break / side events: noon–2 p.m.</p> <p><u>1. Opening of the Conference</u> <i>(plenary, 2–4 p.m.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening ceremony – Adoption of the agenda <p><u>2. The EfE process: 20 years of pan-European cooperation</u> <i>(plenary, 4–6 p.m.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – History of the EfE process (20th anniversary) – Astana Green Bridge Initiative – Presentation of EEAOA – Presentation of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters – Statements by Ministers and high-level representatives of private sector and civil society, with an emphasis on the findings of EEAOA 	<p>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <p><u>4. Sustainable management of water and greening the economy</u> <i>(one-hour plenary followed by two-hour round-table discussions, organized in three parallel sessions, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i> <i>Questions for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What policy mixes and practical tools, such as IWRM, pricing, standards, and water users associations, can be most effective to improve water efficiency by different water users, especially in agriculture, households and industrial operations? (b) How can we encourage investments to take into account the impacts on water quantity and water quality, energy and resource efficiency, and vulnerable populations? 	<p>Lunch break / side events: 1–3 p.m.</p> <p><u>6. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussions under the thematic sessions</u> <i>(plenary, 3–4.30 p.m.)</i></p> <p><u>7. Adoption of Conference outcomes</u> <i>(plenary, 4.30–5.30 p.m.)</i></p> <p><u>8. Closing of the Conference</u> <i>(plenary, 5.30–6 p.m.)</i></p>
<p>Official events / side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	<p>Official event — establishment of Environmental Information System (SEIS) / side events: 6–9 p.m.</p>	