

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of reports of the Steering Committee on its thirteenth session and reports of the Bureau on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth meetings**

**Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) 7-8 July 2016, Copenhagen (Denmark)**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION**

1. The 29th meeting of the Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee was held on 7-8 July 2016 in Copenhagen (Denmark), hosted by WHO/Europe. The meeting was attended by representatives from: Austria, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The representative from Georgia participated through Skype connection on the second day.

2. In the absence of the Chair, Ms Nino Tkhilava (Georgia), the Meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr Matthias Rinderknecht (Switzerland).

3. THE PEP secretariat was represented by Ms Virginia Fusé (UNECE Environment Division), Mr George Georgiadis (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), Ms Francesca Racioppi (on the second day) and Mr Christian Schweizer (WHO/Europe). Ms Nino Sharashidze also participated through Skype connection. Mr Srdan Matic (WHO/Europe, Coordinator of the Environment and Health Process) also attended the meeting.

4. Mr Matic informed the meeting about changes in the WHO secretariat servicing THE PEP. Mr Schweizer was moving to another position in WHO/Europe and Ms Sharashidze would take over his functions. The Bureau warmly thanked Mr Schweizer for his work in the joint secretariat and his contributions to THE PEP and wished him well in his new position.

5. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat and the report of the 28th meeting of THE PEP Bureau, held on 19 November 2015 (secretariat notes 02 and 04). The Bureau also took note of the report of the 13th session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP.

**II. IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS DECLARATION**

National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans

6. The secretariat communicated to the Bureau that the Russian version of the “Developing national action plans on transport, health and environment. A step-by-step manual for policy-makers and planners” (NTHEAPs manual) was to be available before the end of July, thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Health of Kazakhstan and WHO/Europe. Follow-up capacity-building activities were to be organized following the translation of the manual.

7. The secretariat also informed the Bureau that Switzerland provided funds to support the implementation of NTHEAPs to the UNECE Environment division and that member States were welcome to contact the secretariat and express their interest in receiving support in preparing and implementing NTHEAPs. Additionally, the secretariat reminded the Bureau that an estimate of the cost of running NTHEAPs activities could be made available to interested countries.

8. The Bureau member from Serbia expressed the interest of her country in receiving support to implement NTHEAPs. She informed the meeting that the NTHEAPs manual was translated in Serbian, and that lack of resources to cover training hampered the organization of further activities.

9. The Bureau representative from the Republic of Moldova informed the meeting that his country was planning to prepare a National Environment and Health Action Plan (NHEAP).

10. The Chair took note of the information from the Republic of Moldova and of the request from Serbia and invited the Bureau member from Serbia and the secretariat to follow-up on that. He also added that the analysis of the questionnaire could give a good overview of which countries could support Serbia in the preparation of their NTHEAP.

#### THE PEP Partnership

11. The secretariat presented the updated version of the Terms of reference on THE PEP partnerships (secretariat note 05) and highlighted the changes requested by the Bureau at its 28th session. Additionally, it informed of a new WHO Framework for the Engagement of Non-State Actors (FENSA), adopted by the WHO World Health Assembly in May 2016, which will introduce new rules regarding the involvement of non-state partners. Depending on how the FENSA will be operationalized in the coming months, there might be effects also on THE PEP partnerships. The issue, related to point 19, was to be further discussed closer to THE PEP High-level Meeting in 2019.

12. The Bureau thanked the secretariat for the work done and commented on the usefulness of THE PEP partnerships as an operative tool to implement THE PEP. Furthermore, it highlighted the instrumental role of the partnerships as outreach to new countries not involved in THE PEP. The Bureau adopted the changes presented, asking for an additional correction and requested the secretariat to submit the draft document to the Steering Committee for adoption.

13. The secretariat informed that a layout for the presentation of THE PEP partnerships was under preparation and would soon be shared with the Bureau for comments.

#### THE PEP Partnership on cycling

14. The Austrian member of the Bureau informed the meeting about the status of the developments in the Partnership on Cycling (information note 02), in particular the outcomes of the recent meetings on the development of the Pan-European Masterplan for Cycling Promotion. Furthermore, the secretariat informed the Bureau about the development of an infrastructure module (secretariat note 16), under the responsibility of UNECE. The Bureau welcomed the development and endorsed the document.

15. The representative from Austria further recalled that the European Commission was working on a cycling strategy and that the European Union cycling officer could participate in meetings of the Partnership. This would further support cooperation with the European institution and could attract the interest of those Member States of the European Union currently not engaged in THE PEP activities.

16. The Bureau welcomed the information and:

a) Expressed the wish that the creation and implementation of the Master Plan could promote the involvement of international financial institutions interested in investing in cycling infrastructure;

b) Highlighted the important role of focal points to collect data needed for the creation of the Master Plan;

c) Considered the possibility to create a legal instrument under THE PEP on cycling promotion. A legal instrument would promote making funds available for cycling infrastructure by administrations in member States. The Bureau requested that, through the Partnership on Cycling, national cycling officers be contacted to assess the feasibility of and need for a legal instrument on cycling.

#### THE PEP Partnership on Jobs in green and healthy transport

17. The secretariat presented the executive summary of “Riding towards the green economy: cycling and green jobs”, prepared under the Partnership on jobs in green and healthy transport. It also announced that the complete study would be ready in time for the 14th meeting of the Steering Committee.

18. The Bureau welcomed the information and discussed whether the Partnership should investigate additional topics in the future. The main outcomes of the discussion are summarized as follows:

a) Presenting concrete outcomes of the work under the Partnership at the next High-level Meeting in 2019 would be an advantage. One example could be to present an expanded research on the economic benefits of cycling;

b) Furthermore, presenting economic benefits of cycling would link to the outcome on green economy at the Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016);

c) Re-establishing the cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) encouraging their participation in the activities of the Partnership would be important.

#### New Health Economic Assessment Tools (HEAT) for walking and cycling

19. The secretariat presented the latest developments of the Health economic assessment tools (HEAT) for walking and cycling. Among the main elements, it highlighted the steady growth of its use and requests to translate it in other languages. The secretariat also presented the encouraging, recent findings concerning cycling in polluted areas that supported the use of bicycle as means of transport even in polluted areas.

#### THE PEP Partnership on Eco-driving

20. The representative from Austria presented to the Bureau the latest developments in the Partnership on Eco-Driving (information note 03). In particular, he mentioned that the Partnership was considering preparing a manual for a harmonized approach on eco-driving in THE PEP region and that the Partnership had received several expressions of interest for activities by different member States, including Belarus.

#### Partnership on the Integration of Transport, Health and Environmental Objectives with Urban and Spatial Planning Policies (THE PEP Goal 5)

21. The representative of the Russian Federation presented activities planned under the partnership created with France. He also informed the Bureau that the Russian Federation and France were planning to establish a Master programme based on THE PEP Goal 5 “To integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies” (information note 01). Finally, he presented the description of the Partnership.

22. The Bureau:

a) Thanked the representative of the Russian Federation for the presentation and asked him to send amendments to the text to the secretariat;

b) Welcomed the information that Norway was considering joining the Partnership on Goal 5;

23. The Bureau adopted pending Partnership descriptions (secretariat notes: 06, 07 and 08).

THE PEP Academy

24. The secretariat presented a proposed activity workplan for THE PEP Academy for 2016-2018 (secretariat note 09). It also informed the meeting that:

a) A scoping exercise for the need of summer schools was carried out;

b) The secretariat was building the content of a summer programme, one module at a time. The first training module is planned to be developed thanks to financial support pledged by Switzerland and would consist of facts and figures on the benefits of walking and cycling, with a target audience of professionals and policy makers, a The secretariat expressed the hope that other Member States would be interested in funding further modules.

25. The Bureau welcomed the progress in THE PEP Academy and:

a) Suggested that while working on modules, webinars could be organised, so that their content could feed into the modules;

b) Encouraged including students and young people as beneficiaries of THE PEP Academy. Furthermore, invited to consider that the modules be used also for national training and for THE PEP workshops. This could be a way to encourage member States to invest in THE PEP Academy;

c) Agreed to provide by the end of August comments on THE PEP Academy; and

d) Requested the secretariat to submit the programme of work of THE PEP Academy to the Steering Committee for approval. It also decided to bring to the attention of the Steering Committee, for decision, the possibility to change the period of the Academy programme of work from 2016-2018 to 2017-2018, to reflect the fact that the programme of work would be proposed for adoption towards the end of the year.

THE PEP Relay race

26. The representative from the Russian Federation presented the outcome of the Relay-race organized in Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation on 30-31 May 2016 (information note 05). The workshop, focused on good practices on cycling during severe winter conditions, also provided the opportunity for participants to focus on a concrete case study related to the city of Petrozavodsk.

27. The Bureau welcomed the outcome of the workshop. It also invited the Russian Federation to consider becoming a member of the Partnership on cycling to support national policies on cycling promotion.

28. The representative from Austria presented on the Relay-race that was to take place in Vienna 13-15 July (information note 06). The workshop was to focus on decarbonization and aimed at creating a bridge towards THE PEP High-level Meeting in 2019.

29. The representative of the Russian Federation recalled the pledge during the 13th session of the Steering Committee to organize a Relay-race workshop in Vladivostok, to which Asian countries would be invited. He informed that the workshop was to take place in early autumn and sought support from the Bureau for identifying suitable speakers on urban or transport planning.

30. The secretariat updated the Bureau about future Relay-races. It confirmed the readiness of Germany to organize one in September 2017. Furthermore, it informed the Bureau about a letter received from Ukraine, containing an offer to organize a Relay-race in 2016 or 2017. The secretariat asked the Bureau for advice on when to schedule the workshop in Ukraine, since the request arrived after the offers from the Russian Federation, Austria and Germany and the capacities of the secretariat were limited in the following months because of previously planned activities.

31. The Bureau thanked the representatives from the Russian Federation and Austria for hosting Relay races and for their presentations, and the secretariat for the update. The Bureau also:

a) Welcomed the organization of the workshop in Vladivostok with the understanding that the secretariat could only provide limited support to the organization, in view of the preparation of the meeting of the Steering Committee and of the Symposium in early November 2016;

b) Requested the Russian Federation and Austria to submit reports of the workshops in Petrozavodsk, Vienna and Vladivostok to the Steering Committee;

c) Requested the secretariat to send a letter to Ukraine expressing appreciation for the kind offer and asking to consider organizing the workshop in the first half of 2018, in consideration of other previously scheduled activities under THE PEP.

#### Monitoring progress towards the Paris Goals

32. The secretariat presented the outcome of a review aiming to bring the questionnaire more in line with the Paris declaration. The main changes (secretariat note 10) were turning open text questions to multiple-choice. The secretariat was to send the questionnaire at the end of August, and the countries would have until the beginning of October to respond to the secretariat.

33. The Bureau thanked the secretariat and highlighted the importance that member States submit the questionnaire, even if not all the questions have been addressed due to lack of information from other authorities involved in THE PEP implementation.

### **III. COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION**

34. The secretariat presented:

a) The Draft communication activities for 2017 (secretariat note 11);

b) The Information note on the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, 8-10 June 2016) (secretariat note 15). The report to the Bureau included information on THE PEP side event: “Riding towards green economy: cycling and green job” and its positive result.

35. The Coordinator of the Environment and Health Process recalled the upcoming Ministerial Conference of the European Environment and Health Process (EHP) (2017). He informed the Bureau that the outcome of the Ministerial Conference was to be result-oriented and might include very few and targeted commitments. He, therefore, invited the Bureau and, through the Bureau, the Steering Committee, to consider how and to which extent THE PEP could be involved in the preparation and outcome of the Ministerial Conference.

36. The Bureau thanked the presenters for the valuable information provided and:

a) Commended the organization of the Batumi Conference and its result-oriented outcomes. It also expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the organization of the well-attended side event;

b) Thanked the Coordinator of the Environment and Health Process for providing the opportunity to participate in the process leading to the Ministerial Conference. In brainstorming about topics that might be relevant for THE PEP to discuss at the EHP Ministerial Conference, the Bureau highlighted several possibilities, including:

c) To consider a political outcome linked to THE PEP, such as recognizing human-powered transport as a means of transport. This outcome could support the Master Plan on cycling. Such an outcome could also be seen as an intermediate step in the preparation of THE PEP High-level Meeting (Vienna, 2019);

d) To link THE PEP process to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the outcome of the Paris Climate agreement of 2015. This could be done through focusing on Goal 5 linking THE PEP and the EHP with cities. Inviting THE PEP to further work on decarbonization or on drawing more attention to social elements of sustainability could be part of it;

e) To organize a side event and, possibly, a THE PEP event back-to-back with the Ministerial Conference, to maximize the participation of additional stakeholders in THE PEP process;

37. The Chair thanked the Bureau members for the constructive brainstorming. He then invited the Bureau to decide on the way forward. The Bureau:

a) Decided that the Steering Committee should be involved in the discussions. It, therefore, requested the secretariat to insert in the Steering Committee agenda an item on the upcoming EHP Ministerial Conference and the input from THE PEP;

b) Agreed to provide a first input to the EHP for its Task Force meeting in November. For this, it requested the secretariat to prepare a draft paper summarizing the topics discussed at the present meeting and containing elements from Goal 5. The paper should be sent by the end of August to the Bureau, who will provide its comments by the end of September. Afterwards, the paper should be sent to the Steering Committee requesting its agreement to submit the draft paper to the EEHP Task Force meeting.

38. The Bureau approved the preliminary list of communication opportunities for THE PEP in 2017 (informal document 11) and requested the secretariat to further report to the Steering Committee.

#### THE PEP clearing house

39. The secretariat recalled the previous decision at the 13th meeting of the Steering Committee about the upgrade of the Clearing House and informed the Bureau about updates.

The Bureau was also informed that the software work would begin shortly and that more concrete information could already be presented at the Steering Committee meeting in November 2016.

#### **IV. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 14TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE (SC14)**

40. The Bureau discussed preparations for the 14th meeting of the Steering Committee (7-9 November 2016, at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva). Specifically, the Bureau reviewed and provisionally approved the Steering Committee's agenda (secretariat note 13), with the change mentioned above (see para. 36 (a)). The Bureau agreed to provide to the secretariat further comments by 22 July 2016.

41. The secretariat introduced the draft concept note of the Symposium (secretariat note 14). The Bureau discussed the proposed scope of the Symposium, and endorsed it without further changes. The Bureau agreed to provide to the secretariat further comments by 22 July 2016. They also agreed to provide to the secretariat suggestions about potential speakers and keynote speakers as soon as possible.

42. The Bureau reviewed the draft programme of work for 2016-2017 (secretariat note 12) and requested the secretariat to update it based on the outcomes of the Bureau meeting and to submit it to the Steering Committee.

43. Furthermore, the Bureau decided to present to the Steering Committee a proposal to synchronize better the biennium of the programmes of work, so that, for example, in the 2017 meeting of the Steering Committee, the Committee would discuss the programme of work 2018-2019 and similarly for the following biennia.

44. The Bureau tasked the secretariat with preparing a list of potential communication activities and events for THE PEP in 2017 to be presented at the 14th meeting of the Steering Committee.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

45. The secretariat informed the Bureau about expenditures and contributions in 2015 and 2016. The Bureau recognized that, despite a slight recovery in 2015, the status of the trust fund needed sustainable financing and urged member States to contribute financially and in kind to THE PEP to ensure the implementation of the Paris Declaration. The Bureau welcomed Austria's pledge of Euro 40,000 to both the UNECE and WHO secretariat. The secretariat clarified that the figures only reflected financial contributions, while in-kind contributions were reported during the sessions of the Steering Committee.

46. The secretariat informed the Bureau about a THE PEP article that appeared in the peer reviewed journal *Panorama* in English and Russian. The secretariat was requested to email the link to the entire Steering Committee.

#### Next Meetings

47. The Symposium would take place on 7 November 2016. The 14th session of the Steering Committee would take place on 8 and 9 November 2016 followed by the 30th meeting of the Bureau in the afternoon of 9 November 2016 at the WHO premises in Geneva.

48. The Bureau will decide at its 30th meeting the exact dates for its 31st meeting in the summer of 2017 at the WHO premises in Copenhagen.

### Composition of the Bureau

49. The Bureau acknowledged that, according to the rules of procedure of THE PEP Steering Committee, the Bureau's composition should aim at achieving an equal number of representatives from the three sectors. Accordingly, given the current composition, the number of representatives from the Health sector should not increase until an equivalent number of representatives from the Environment and Transport sectors is reached. The Bureau decided to encourage representatives from the environment and transport sectors to express their interest in joining THE PEP Bureau.

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