

THE PEP Steering Committee, 8th session

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the reports of the Steering Committee and its Bureau

**REPORT OF THE 12th SESSION
OF THE BUREAU OF THE TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)**

15-16 July 2010, Rome

1. The Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee met from 15 to 16 July 2010 in Rome to discuss the preparations for the 8th session of THE PEP Steering Committee in December 2010; to review preparations and activities of the implementation mechanisms of the Amsterdam Declaration; to discuss THE PEP communication strategy and related activities, and to consider the proposed THE PEP work programme for 2009-11.
 2. The meeting was chaired by THE PEP Steering Committee chair Ms Juliette Ng-A-Tham (Netherlands). The following Bureau members attended: Mr Robert Thaler (Austria), Mr François André (Belgium), Ms Nadine Asconchilo (France), Ms Nino Sharashidze (Georgia), Ms Sjoukje Faber (Netherlands), Mr Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation), Ms Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin (Switzerland), Mr Mihail Kochubovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Ms Lisa Brodey (United States of America). Ms Heather Allen and Ms Rebecca Viney (International Association of Public Transport) participated as observers.
 3. Ms Francesca Racioppi, Mr Christian Schweizer (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Ms Brinda Wachs (UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division) and Mr Martin Magold (UNECE, Transport Division) participated from THE PEP secretariat. The meeting was hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome office.
 4. The Bureau adopted the report of its eleventh session (Geneva, 23 October 2009).
- A. Implementation mechanisms**
5. The Bureau discussed the first draft of the manual for developing National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs), accepted the overall structure and content of the draft and made recommendations for the finalization of the manual.
 6. An advisory group will be established, made up of interested Bureau members and other experts among THE PEP Focal Points. The group would meet in autumn 2010 to prepare a second draft and would present it to the Steering Committee at its 8th session in December 2010. Member States would be requested to express their interest in applying the manual on a pilot basis, the results of which would inform the final draft.
 7. The Bureau considered a draft Terms of Reference for THE PEP Partnership, noting the aim of the Partnership would be to attract project-specific funding, garner support, raise awareness of PEP-related issues and objectives and provide assistance and expertise to countries in the development of NTHEAPs. It would also provide a mechanism through which entities other than Member States could fund activities of THE PEP, such as NGOs, local or municipal agencies or private enterprises.
 8. The Bureau agreed the draft Terms of Reference for the Partnership. A work programme for the Partnership shall be elaborated, with concrete projects focussed on specific topics and presented to the Steering Committee at its 8th session.

9. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the ongoing project on estimating the economic benefits of walking (health economic assessment tool for walking: HEAT for walking) and plans to integrate it with the existing HEAT for cycling, which is currently being improved. The project builds upon previously developed methodologies for the quantification of transport-related health effects and health benefits. The Bureau welcomed the results and requested the secretariat to report on further progress in 2011.

10. Mr Kochubovski informed on THE PEP relay race (staffete) workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport policies held on 7-8 June 2010 in Skopje. A report of the workshop is available on THE PEP website and will be considered by the Steering Committee at its 8th session. The Bureau endorsed the action points for policymakers and urged that they be implemented by Governments. A follow-up workshop is envisaged for 2011, to be organized by the Government of the Ukraine.

11. Ms. Sharashidze informed the Bureau about preparations for a workshop on safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas, to be held on 30 September-1 October 2010 in Batumi (Georgia). The Bureau commented on the draft programme, highlighting the importance of building on the action points agreed at the previous workshop on walking and cycling held in September 2009 in Pruhonice (Czech Republic); of increasing local contributions to the workshop and ensuring its long-term impact (e.g. through activities of THE PEP Partnership).

12. The Bureau recommended that subsequent workshops aim to adopt more concrete action points, with clear indications of how they could be implemented at national and local level. Progress made on action points should be assessed at follow-up workshops and by the Steering Committee as part of the exercise in monitoring the in-country implementation of THE PEP and the Amsterdam goals. It welcomed the trend toward organizing workshops in the eastern parts of the UNECE/WHO European region, with a focus on national rather than sub-regional issues.

13. The Bureau requested the secretariat to develop a promotional information package highlighting past and planned workshops and the potential benefits for the host country. In addition, it requested the secretariat to explore options for combining the two current themes of THE PEP relay race workshops (i.e. policy integration and walking and cycling), to package them under THE PEP Partnership and to develop THE PEP awards for innovative urban policies or actions related to these topics. This could facilitate marketing of the workshops in line with THE PEP communication strategy.

B. Preparation of the 8th session of THE PEP Steering Committee

14. The Bureau considered the draft agenda for the 8th session of the Steering Committee. The session would focus on monitoring the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration and THE PEP process in Member States. It would aim to agree its communication strategy and its programme of work and continue its efforts to attract civil society and other stakeholders to the process such as environmental and health NGOs and, municipal authorities, in cooperation with UNEP.

15. As decided at its 7th session, in order to explore selected PEP-related topics more thoroughly, the Steering Committee session would be preceded by a symposium on goal 1 of the Amsterdam Declaration. The tentative title is: Green and health-friendly investment and jobs in transport. The symposium will consist of one or two key note speeches and a panel discussion, followed by the launch of a concrete project proposal for interested Member States, to be implemented in the context of THE PEP Partnership.

16. The Bureau considered the proposed THE PEP programme of work for 2009-2011 and was invited to submit comments to the secretariat by e-mail before end-August 2010.

17. The Bureau discussed a draft questionnaire developed by the secretariat in order to monitor the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration and THE PEP process in Member States. The questionnaire would be sent to a selected group of four or five Member States on a pilot basis, the results of which would be discussed at the Steering Committee. Based on the findings of the Committee, a similar exercise could be carried out in subsequent years with the aim of producing an interim report in 2012 including success stories and case studies of PEP-related activities. A final report of progress achieved would be presented to the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, scheduled for 2014.

18. The secretariat was requested to simplify the questionnaire and transmit it to the focal points of selected countries by the beginning of September 2010, with replies due back by the beginning of November.

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C. Communication and cooperation

19. The Bureau welcomed THE PEP brochure and the draft communication strategy and made suggestions on its further refinements. In particular, the Bureau stressed the importance of branding and of developing media-friendly materials to attract specific target groups. It requested the secretariat to consider the possibility of preparing a promotional package (advocacy kit) of slides and brochures highlighting the features of THE PEP, as well as proposed projects and activities and their potential impact. The advocacy kit could be used by the secretariat when attending other meetings or events, and would support the focal points in disseminating information about THE PEP.

20. In addition, the secretariat will coordinate the exchange of information on national and international opportunities to promote THE PEP with and among the Focal Points and map international events and organizations where THE PEP could contribute (e.g. World Health Youth (WHY) communication network, Women Ministers of Environment, European Mobility Week, Eurocities, Greenweeks and Velomondial)

21. The UITP offered to help increase the visibility of THE PEP, encouraging THE PEP to have a presence at important international events, such as the upcoming Commission on Sustainable Development 4th Implementation Cycle: Policy Session which includes transport among its themes (2 - 13 May 2011, New York) or the International Transport Forum (ITF) which would focus on Transport and Society in 2011. The Bureau recalled that the International Olympics scheduled for 2012 in London would be on the theme of physical activity and health. It was informed of recent research by the British Medical Association citing the importance of exercise to alleviate depression.

22. The secretariat will revise the communication strategy and present a final draft to the Steering Committee in December. The Bureau requested the secretariat to send the new brochure to all ministers of transport, health and environment of the UNECE-WHO/Europe region with a request for funding, to be signed by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE and the Regional Director for Europe of WHO.

D. Next meetings and other business

23. France presented and submitted new documents for inclusion in THE PEP Toolbox.

24. The secretariat proposed a new mechanism for updating the Clearing House. The Bureau welcomed the initiative and requested the secretariat to clarify the costs.

25. The Bureau discussed Guidelines for financial assistance and accepted them, with minor modifications.
26. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of funds of UNECE and WHO/Europe that are available for THE PEP.
27. The Bureau considered its composition and next chair, foreseeing a rotation to the health sector. The Bureau welcomed the offer of Ursula Ulrich-Vögtlin (Head of Division, Multisectoral Projects, Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland) to chair the Steering Committee, beginning with its 8th session.
28. The secretariat reported on THE PEP side event at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which took place in March 2010 in Parma and related follow-up. The Parma Declaration directly refers to THE PEP regarding the implementation of its Regional Priority Goal 2 and would be the basis of the ECE's high-level intervention in the upcoming Regional Committee for Europe, 60th session, to be held on 13-16 September 2010 in Moscow.
29. WHO informed on a joint project with the European Commission to promote networking and action on healthy and equitable environments for physical activity.
30. Belgium informed on the upcoming colloquium on mobility and health (17 September 2010), organized by the Belgian Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport in the context of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union and the European Mobility Week.
31. The next meeting of the Bureau would be held on 10 December 2010 in Geneva following the 8th session of the Steering Committee.
