Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 22–23 January 2009

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

In 2002, the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was launched at the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health. It was set up to address key challenges to achieving more sustainable transport patterns and closer integration of environmental and health concerns into transport policy. THE PEP is a multisectoral partnership among Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) European Region and draws on the expertise and experience of international organizations, civil society, local authorities, the private sector and the academic and research communities.

Hosted by the Government of the Netherlands, the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (3HLM) will be organized by the UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe. The theme of the High-level Meeting will be: “Making THE (transport, health and environment) link: Transport choices for our health, environment and prosperity”.

The 3HLM will bring together ministers of transport, health and environment and their representatives, as well as other policy-makers from the Member States in the WHO European Region and of UNECE, and is intended to carve out a common vision for the future of sustainable and healthy transport in the Region, in particular in urban areas. It will include expert and ministerial keynote speeches, as well as panels and debates with both high-level stakeholders and other interested participants.
The 3HLM will aim to:

a) review and take stock of developments concerning sustainable transport and policy integration in the region since the UNECE Transport and Environment Ministerial Conference in Vienna in 1997;

b) strengthen Member States’ commitment to greater integration of transport, health and environment policies at the national level;

c) reinforce the role of THE PEP as the platform for promoting greater policy integration and sustainable transport development throughout the UNECE and WHO European Region, in particular in the field of urban transport, as well as reinvigorating the high-level commitment by governments to actively implement THE PEP and to be able to secure necessary resources and support;

d) highlight and raise awareness of the main choices and challenges that need to be addressed on a priority basis, in particular in the countries of eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia and south-eastern Europe countries; and

e) make commitments to take action and agree on a vision for the future of transport, health and environment for the pan-European region and determine priorities for future work by adjusting or complementing the THE PEP’s priorities selected in 2002, as needed.

The expected outcomes of the 3HLM are proposals for concrete action at the international and national, or federal and sub-national levels. They will seek to bring a renewed impetus to THE PEP, as a unique international policy platform, encouraging policy-makers to work together to enhance the efficiency of our transport systems, while managing sustainable mobility, reducing emissions and promoting health and safety.