

Report of the 33rd Meeting of the Bureau  
of THE PEP Steering Committee  
(10-11 July 2018, Vienna)

I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The thirty-third meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) was held in Vienna on 10-11 July 2018, hosted by Austria. The Bureau meeting was organized in an extended format, back to back with a preparatory workshop (9-10 July 2018) for an informal Meeting Council of the European Union on Environment and Transport, to be held in Graz, Austria, on 29-30 October 2018.
2. The Bureau meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
3. In addition, representatives of the following national, regional and international organizations and bodies, the private sector, civil society associations and academia participated: European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC), International Association of Public Transport; Polis Network; Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), International Association of Public Transport.
4. THE PEP Secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin and Ms. Virginia Fusé (UNECE Environment Division), Mr. Francesco Dionori and Mr. George Georgiadis (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), and Ms. Francesca Racioppi and Ms. Nino Sharashidze (WHO/Europe).
5. The Bureau Chair, Mr. Vadim Donchenko (Russian Federation) opened the meeting and thanked the Austrian organizers for the hospitality and excellent organization.
6. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the Secretariat and the report of the 32nd meeting of THE PEP Bureau, held on 8 November 2017 (Secretariat notes 02 and 04, respectively). The Bureau also adopted the report of the 15th session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP held on 6-8 November 2017 (Secretariat note 04 too).

II. TOWARDS THE FIFTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

7. The Chair recalled that this Bureau meeting marked the start of negotiations for the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Vienna 22–24 October 2019) and expressed his hope that all member States would engage actively.
8. The host country informed the Bureau that the opening of the High-level Meeting had been included in the calendar of the Federal President of Austria. The High-level Meeting will be preceded by a special session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP on 21 October. Both meetings were to take place at the United Nations Office at Vienna.
9. The Secretariat presented the second draft of the Concept note for the Fifth High-level Meeting (Secretariat note 05); the Elements that could be included in the outcome Declaration of the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Secretariat note 06); and the Draft calendar/timetable reflecting preparations towards the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport,

Health and Environment (Secretariat note 07). The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that save-the-date letters had been sent to all UNECE and WHO/Europe member States.

10. The Bureau discussed the content of the documents and made the following observations:

- a) Themes and discussions at the High-level Meeting should reflect the different situations in different countries;
- b) The Priority Goals should be reviewed. If needed, they could be modified and/or a new overarching Goal could be developed;
- c) The connection between THE PEP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be one of the themes of the High-level Meeting and one of the elements of the final declaration. The unique role of THE PEP in integrating different sectors, most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international obligations needs to be reflected clearly;
- d) Given the rapid development, automation and digitalization of the last decades, new challenges had appeared that need to be considered (e.g., the impact of automated vehicles on the labour market and the creation of new professions while old ones disappear);
- e) Issues addressing education, social integration, inequality and the health benefits of sustainable transport should be of greater concern;
- f) The importance of the dialogue between cities and regions should be emphasized, as regions are often neglected despite the fact that regional issues cannot be solved on the city level. Other aspects highlighted were: how to connect urban areas to less populated areas in the region and how to increasingly introduce “short-distance planning” – a planning that allows to reach safely and comfortably important destinations by walking or cycling ;
- g) Sessions should be formulated in a way that they are interesting and attractive for all three sectors;
- h) Discussions on governance and technical issues need to be distinguished between ministerial and other sessions;
- i) Further efforts have to be made for engaging more member States in the process;
- j) The focus needs to be on people and their interests, and on identifying their problems, so that THE PEP can offer good solutions;
- k) It would be best to promote more active involvement of private companies, workers, trade unions and their representatives – big companies regularly develop mobility plans and often come up with more innovative approaches than the public transport sector;
- l) The declaration should be short, clear and strategic;
- m) “Mobility” should be one of the main words in the declaration.

11. Furthermore, the Bureau brainstormed on possible themes for the sessions of the High-level Meeting. The list includes but is not limited to the following topics:

- a) Digitalization and new challenges in transport
- b) Active mobility
- c) Demand management
- d) Urban and spatial planning
- e) Effective governance, good policy framework
- f) Data collection and management
- g) Economic and social aspects of mobility transformation

- h) New challenges for the labour market
  - i) New mobility for an economic development
  - j) New mobility to bring economic players on board
  - l) Connecting cities and non-urban areas
12. The Bureau also brainstormed on elements for the declaration and on possible slogans for the High-level Meeting. The representative of Austria stressed that the declaration should be forward looking, focusing on the opportunities and perspectives for the next 10-15 years. He also underlined that Austria could play a bridging role between all member States of the pan-European region and the EU.
  13. The Bureau entrusted the host country to discuss internally the options considered for a slogan and to present few suggestions to the Steering Committee meeting in December.
  14. The Bureau decided to establish a drafting group to prepare the declaration composed of the Bureau Chair and Vice Chairs and representatives of Belgium, France and Norway. The drafting group will work online with the possibility of organizing a face-to-face meeting in the context of one of the relay-race meetings.
  15. The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to prepare a zero draft of the declaration and share it with the drafting group.
  16. A representative of EEHYC expressed the interest and readiness of the Coalition to continue supporting THE PEP by mobilizing young people and youth organizations in national and international activities. In the framework of preparations of the Fifth High-level Meeting, EEHYC will organize activities before, during and after the Conference, such as a photography competition and informational campaign and on-site events in cooperation with youth representatives from the host country.
  17. The Bureau welcomed the proposal of EEHYC and noted that national governments should support the active participation of young people in the decision-making process.
  18. The Executive Director of CAREC highlighted the increasing efforts by the organization towards integrating environmental and health issues. As part of this work, he mentioned the cooperation with THE PEP in a capacity-building workshop for the countries of Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20-21 November 2018). As moderator of one of the sessions of the workshop, he was ready to support THE PEP in identifying specific needs of the Central Asian countries and formulating a subregional perspective to be presented at the High-level Meeting.
  19. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and invited CAREC to work closely in the context of THE PEP.
  20. The Bureau requested the secretariat to make available, as official documents and in the three UNECE official languages, the draft declaration and a concept for a programme for the High-level Meeting.

### III. IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS DECLARATION

#### **National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAP)**

21. The representative of Serbia updated the Bureau on the activities related to the development of NTHEAP at sub-national level. In particular, she reported to the Bureau that:
  - a. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia established a working group chaired by the State Secretary;

- b. The preparations for a visit to France were progressing. The visit was scheduled for September 2018 and the topics for discussions had been identified;
  - c. Serbia was planning to add the preparation of NTHEAP in the Serbian national portfolio for action under the European Environment and Health Process
  - d. Serbia was planning to report on the results of the NTHEAP preparation at the High-level Meeting.
22. The Chair took note of the information provided. The Bureau welcomed the development of the Serbian activities and expressed an interest in seeing further results.

### **THE PEP Partnerships**

23. **Cycling:** Representatives from Austria provided updates to the Bureau on the preparation of the draft pan-European master plan for cycling promotion after the fifteenth meeting of the Steering Committee. Among the activities related to the preparation of the master plan, they mentioned a meeting of the Partnership on cycling (Moscow, 7 February, 2018) and a meeting of the topic leaders (Vienna, 11-12 June, 2018). They then presented the third draft of the master plan, as revised after the comments of the Steering Committee and of the Bureau. The Bureau members and THE PEP focal points were invited to provide their comments on the fourth draft by 1 September 2018. The topic leaders of the Partnership would meet on 7 September 2018 to discuss and incorporate the comments and finalize a third draft of the master plan.
24. The Chair highlighted that, to easily coordinate inputs with the different ministries involved, it would be useful to have the document translated in the three UNECE official languages. The Secretariat explained that this would be possible for the Steering Committee meeting in December if the Secretariat receives the finalized documents by 10 September to allow sufficient time for editing and submitting them officially for translation.
25. The Bureau agreed with the way forward and the calendar suggested by the representatives from Austria and requested the Secretariat to submit the fourth draft of the master plan as an official document to the sixteenth meeting of the Steering Committee.
26. Furthermore, it decided that the objectives of the draft master plan could be part of the preamble of the draft declaration and the recommendations could be in the body of the declaration. The declaration could also include a commitment by countries to support each other in the implementation of the master plan. In addition, the High-level Meeting could call for the publication of the full master plan, including those elements that had been set aside while shortening the master plan.
27. Furthermore, it was noted that participation of countries in the Partnership is higher than in THE PEP Steering Committee. To encourage the involvement of more member States in THE PEP Steering Committee, it was decided to organize a next Partnership meeting back to back with the sixteenth session of the Steering Committee in December 2018.
28. The Bureau welcomed the information, encouraged all stakeholders to provide very concrete comments with specific wording and noted that the developing of a road map for implementation of the master plan would be the next task of THE PEP.
29. **Eco-driving:** The Austrian delegate updated the Bureau on the recent activities of the Partnership on eco-driving and presented the first draft of “THE PEP Guidelines for Eco-Driving”.
30. The Bureau welcomed the draft and discussed the ways of presenting the guidelines at the Fifth High-level Meeting. It was noted that, for WHO, “guidelines” are evidence-based normative documents, whose development require following specific procedures. To avoid any possible

confusion with WHO guidelines, the Bureau recommended to find an alternative word for “guidelines” in the title.

31. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to make available, as an official document in the three UNECE official languages, the summary for policymakers contained in the draft guidelines on eco-driving, so that it could be negotiated in view of adoption at the High-level Meeting.
32. **Green jobs in transport:** The Chair recalled that France initiated the third phase of studies on green jobs in green and healthy transport. The last Steering Committee meeting welcomed the initiative and the outline of the third phase.
33. The Secretariat and the representative of France updated the Bureau about the recent developments in the Partnership, in particular, the outcomes of the first meeting of the steering group on “Jobs in green and healthy transport: making the green shift” held on 20 March 2018 in Paris. The steering group had agreed on the structure of the study to be built on a scenario-based quantitative approach, complemented by case studies and a best case qualitative approach; the case studies would be provided by member States. The results of the study were to be launched at the High-level Meeting. The steering group planned to have the first draft of the study, including the results of the modelling, ready for discussion at the Steering Committee’s meeting in December 2018. The steering group might convene meetings in the interim period leading up to the High-level Meeting, if needed.
34. The Bureau welcomed the study and reminded the Partnership that the social dimension of green and healthy transport needed to be taken into account, especially when considering issues such as automated driving, to avoid potential conflicts between the preservation of jobs and the greening of transport, given that more efficiency in transport operations might lead to the loss of jobs.
35. **TRANSDANUBE:** An Austrian representative updated the Bureau on the activities implemented under the TRANSDANUBE Partnership. A TRANSDANUBE Partnership meeting was being held in Ulm, Germany, in parallel with the Bureau meeting. The project engages 15 partners and links the national authorities to the regional and local actors with the aim of developing a system for visitors to reach the “pearl” cities along the Danube without the need to use a car, but using public transport (rails, buses and ferries), cycling and walking. The mobility information is of great importance: 10 mobility information centres and 3 bike rental systems are being established; also, business plans had been developed for at least 5 “pearls”. The project will end in mid-2019 and the report will be presented at the High-level Meeting.
36. **Health Economic Assessment Tools (HEAT):** The Secretariat recalled that the latest HEAT modules on mortality from air pollution, road traffic injury, and a module to estimate changes in carbon emissions resulting from modal shifts towards cycling and walking, were launched at the end of 2017. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the publication on “Methods and user guide on physical activity, air pollution, injuries and carbon impact assessments” was available in English, German and French. The Secretariat stressed that HEAT is an open-ended project and is to be updated in line with new scientific developments. In addition, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that a series of webinars on HEAT had been organized jointly by WHO/Europe and the European Cyclists’ Federation, in which all THE PEP Focal Points had been invited to participate, and that a users’ survey was in the process of being launched to further improve the user-friendliness of the on-line tool.
37. The representative of France added that it would be interesting to use HEAT in the context of applications of the Health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) Policy Audit Tool (PAT). The

HEPA PAT provides a protocol and method for a detailed analysis and communication of country level policy responses on physical inactivity. It is structured around a set of 17 key attributes identified as essential for successful implementation of a population-wide approach to the promotion of physical activity across the life course. Completing the tool can foster collaboration between different government departments and other organizations interested in HEPA. It can provide a catalyst for greater communication and joint strategic planning and actions and foster improved collaboration across sectors for future policy development and implementation.

38. **Partnership on integration of transport, health and environment concerns in spatial and urban planning** (Priority Goal 5): The Secretariat recalled that, at its fifteenth session, THE PEP Steering Committee discussed a proposal for a manual on current practices and solutions in the field of sustainable transport and urban planning. At the same time, THE PEP Secretariat presented a proposal for a publication on case studies and good practices on integrating transport and land-use planning in cities. The Steering Committee welcomed both proposals and decided to combine them in one. Furthermore, it mandated the Bureau to take a final decision on the scope of the study and publication.
39. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the implementation of the decision by the Steering Committee. Furthermore the Secretariat invited the Bureau members to the Workshop on Integrated Transport and Urban Development including environmental, health and quality of life perspectives, to be held in Geneva, 4 September 2018.
40. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and supported launching the publication at the Fifth High-level Meeting.
41. Furthermore, the representative of the Polis network informed the Bureau that Polis, a network of 70 cities and regions in Europe working on improvement of local transport through integrated strategies, is interested to support and join the Partnership on Priority Goal 5. The Bureau welcomed the proposal and invited the Polis network to submit a formal request to join THE PEP Partnership.
42. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the first draft of a publication on THE PEP Partnerships had been made available on the website of the meeting as Secretariat note 11. Bureau members, especially those active in the Partnerships, were asked to provide their comments on the draft to the Secretariat by 7 September 2018.

### **THE PEP relay-race workshops**

43. The Russian Federation proposed to host the next relay-race workshop in St. Petersburg on 23 October 2018. The major issues to be covered include: improving urban transport systems for achieving sustainable urban mobility; green and healthy environment; and improving the quality of life of urban populations. The Chair invited the member States to join the workshop.
44. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the city of Rimini (Italy) had offered to host a relay-race workshop on 9 November 2018 within “Ecomondo”, an international event with an innovative format that brings together all sectors of the circular economy in a single platform: from material and energy recovery to sustainable development.
45. The Bureau welcomed and supported both workshops planned in autumn 2018.
46. The Chair further enquired about the possibility of a relay race in Edinburgh (United Kingdom), mentioned in previous meeting. The Bureau recommended exploring the possibility for a joint workshop in Edinburgh in connection with the European Conference on Mobility Management on 29 May-1 June 2019. The overall theme of the conference will be Mobility Management:

Improving Lives and Communities. The conference will emphasize the strong link between mobility management and quality of life, using transport and mobility policy to enhance access to opportunity and to increase social inclusion, as well as to improve local environments.

47. It was also noted that THE PEP relay races in 2018 might offer an opportunity to hold back-to-back meetings of the extended Bureau, should there be a need for additional preparatory meetings ahead of the Steering Committee session in December 2018.

### **THE PEP Academy**

48. The Secretariat presented the proposed activity workplan for THE PEP Academy for 2018-2019 (Secretariat note 08). Activities planned by this implementation mechanism offer a platform for sharing and creating knowledge and expertise for facilitating the implementation of THE PEP Priority Goals. They also provide an important contribution to the accomplishment of various regional and global commitments.
49. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that WHO Regional Office for Europe in collaboration with the WHO Regions for Health Network and the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health conducted a series of webinars to build capacity in and disseminate knowledge of a range of tools, guides and briefs produced by WHO/Europe.
50. The Russian Federation and France further updated the Bureau about the cooperation between the University of Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France) and the Moscow Automobile and Road Construction Technical University (Russian Federation). The exchange programme allowed three Russian students to study in Versailles while two French students will start their study programme in Moscow from February 2019. The exchange programme lasts for five months and it also applies to professors of the two universities.
51. Bureau members expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of having a THE PEP diploma linked to the courses, which would testify that the master's degree course had been organized under THE PEP. The Secretariat clarified that, even though significant efforts would be made for providing support and advocacy of the process, educational accreditation is not in the mandate of the United Nations.
52. Belgium suggested presenting master's theses to THE PEP Steering Committee and inviting the best students to Steering Committee meetings. It was also mentioned that organizing various competitions to promote young scientists should be encouraged.
53. The Bureau welcomed the progress achieved in the Russian-French cooperation in the academic field. It also welcomed the proposal of Belgium to encourage young students and recommended to provide more concrete ideas for possible opportunities for their involvement in the work of THE PEP.

### **Monitoring progress towards the implementation of THE PEP Priority Goals**

54. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that THE PEP Questionnaire is the main monitoring mechanism for the implementation of THE PEP and progress made by member States at national level toward the attainment of THE PEP Goals. It was planned to send THE PEP Questionnaire 2018 to THE PEP Focal Points in the beginning of September 2018. The questionnaire, in English and Russian, was available as Secretariat note 09. Based on the information included in completed questionnaires, a regional review was to be prepared for the next Steering Committee session.

#### IV. COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

55. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force held in Bonn (Germany) on 20-21 March 2018. The Secretariat recalled that, in 2017, countries in the WHO European Region adopted the Ostrava Declaration, which committed them to make visible, measurable and equitable progress on environment and health in seven priority areas. In order to do this, member States agreed to develop national portfolios of actions on environment and health by the end of 2018, coordinated by country-nominated focal points. The Task Force brought together this network of environment and health focal points to kick off and collaborate on developing the portfolios. Participants shared resources, discussed the technical support available and provided examples of how countries have addressed the priority areas through multisectoral collaboration.
56. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that, in the context of the 68th session of the WHO/Regional Committee for Europe, which is the governing body for WHO in the region, THE PEP Secretariat is organizing a technical briefing to highlight the preparations of the Fifth High Level Meeting on Transport, Health and the Environment. The event will take place on 18 September 2018 during the lunch break and will focus on the synergies and opportunities resulting from intersectoral action involving transport and urban planning, health promotion and protection, environmental quality and economic development, and in particular the role played by THE PEP as a policy framework that fosters partnerships across sectors and actors. The event will also be a good opportunity for encouraging active engagement, particularly of ministries of health, in the preparation of the High-level Meeting. The format of the technical briefing was to include two keynote speeches and a moderated panel discussion.
57. The Bureau was invited to suggest speakers and panelists before 1 August 2018. The Bureau welcomed the outline of the proposed technical briefing and committed to provide suggestions for speakers.

#### **Communication opportunities for THE PEP in 2018-2019**

58. The Secretariat presented communication activities that were focused on promoting the High-level Meeting as a key international event addressing transport, health and environment concerns in the pan-European region (Secretariat note 12). The communication activities would attempt to raise the visibility of THE PEP, target a broad audience and attract political support from member States. A list of proposed concrete actions to publicize the Vienna Conference, highlight the key issues, raise awareness on THE PEP and enhance synergies among all partners, depending on the availability of funds, was presented.
59. Member States and Focal Points of THE PEP were encouraged to engage more actively and consider and suggest innovative approaches and share best practices that can be applied for dissemination and visibility opportunities for THE PEP and its achievements (e.g., linking to the conference website from their ministry website and highlighting the High-level Meeting through their own communication channels).
60. The Bureau considered the proposed activities and invited member States to recommend additional activities and to consider supporting some of the activities either financially or through an in-kind contribution.

61. The session was concluded by the updated information on further adjustments to THE PEP website that were needed largely due to changes to the website architecture of UNECE as a whole, following its migration to Drupal, in order to ensure adequate support by UNECE technical services. The Bureau noted that secretariat will further update the Steering Committee on this matter at its sixteenth session in December 2018.

#### V. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 16TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

62. THE Secretariat presented the draft agenda for the 16th session of THE PEP Steering Committee, which will be held at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 12-14 December 2018, beginning with THE PEP 2018 Symposium on 12 December (a. m.), followed by the Steering Committee meeting (12-14 December) and concluding with a meeting of the Bureau on 14 December (p.m.) (Secretariat note 13).

63. The Bureau adopted the draft agenda, taking note that, at the request of the Steering Committee, it included half a day more than previous sessions, and mandated the Secretariat to prepare it as a formal document for the Steering Committee.

64. The Bureau further reviewed the draft Programme of work for 2018-2019 (Secretariat note 10) presented by the Secretariat and addressing a range of activities to be pursued up until the Fifth High-level Meeting.

65. The Bureau welcomed the new approach in which planned activities are mapped against SDGs. The Bureau adopted the Programme of work, as amended, and requested the secretariat to make it available in the three UNECE languages at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

66. The Chair reminded the Bureau that, at its fifteenth session, the Committee decided that the Symposium in 2018 would tackle Priority Goal 3 – to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gasses, air pollution and noise. The Secretariat presented a background note on the content and format of and issues to be covered at THE PEP 2018 Symposium, entitled “Achieving multiple benefits through active mobility: reduced emissions and noise, better environment and improved human health” (Secretariat note 14).

67. The Bureau welcomed the proposed scope of the Symposium, adopted it without further changes and requested the Secretariat to make it available in the three UNECE languages at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. The Chair invited the Bureau members to suggest possible speakers for the Symposium.

68. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about expenditures and received donations in 2017 and 2018. The Bureau thanked Austria, France, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland for their contributions and called for further pledges, as the expenditures, in view of the High-level Meeting, were increasing. Furthermore, it requested the Secretariat to produce an official report on expenditures and received donations for the meeting of the Steering Committee.

69. The Secretariat presented the new publication entitled “Making THE (transport, health and environment) link”, illustrating the results of an analysis of how countries can advance the 2030 Agenda by working through THE PEP. The new report highlights the strong links between the actions supported by THE PEP and many SDGs, in particular Goals 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17. The publication aims to inspire its audience to take advantage of existing policy commitments and cooperation platforms, such as THE PEP, to support the implementation of the Goals.

70. The Bureau welcomed and highly appreciated the new publication.

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS

71. A representative of the Secretariat reported to the Bureau that the UNECE is supporting implementation of a gender action plan in its activities. It was mentioned that integrating gender aspects in transport, health and environment activities has a good potential for achieving results. One example could be addressing gender inequality in cycling in many countries of the pan-European region.
72. The Bureau welcomed the opportunities to work on bridging the gap between men and women cyclists and proposed the possibility of having a gender-related focus in the relay race in Rimini.
73. The Bureau decided that the 34th meeting of the Bureau will take place on 14 December 2018 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The 35th meeting of the Bureau is provisionally scheduled to take place in Copenhagen in summer 2019, unless otherwise decided.
74. In addition, the Bureau proposed to continue negotiations in early spring of 2019 and asked the Secretariat and invited member States to explore the possibilities of hosting a next meeting of the Bureau in an extended format.