

Report of the 36th Meeting of the Bureau for the implementation of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)

(1-2 July 2019, Bonn)

I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The thirty-sixth meeting of the Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee was held in Bonn on 1-2 July 2019, hosted by WHO/Europe.
2. The Bureau meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, France, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland.
3. THE PEP Secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin and Ms. Virginia Fusé (UNECE Environment Division), Ms. Francesca Racioppi and Ms. Nino Sharashidze (WHO/Europe).
4. The Bureau Chair, Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria) opened the meeting and thanked WHO/Europe for hosting the Bureau meeting. He also congratulated Ms. Francesca Racioppi for being appointed as the Head of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn.
5. In her opening address, Ms. Francesca Racioppi informed the Bureau about the reorganization of the work of WHO/Europe. In particular, she explained that until recently the technical part of environment and health work of the WHO/Europe was concentrated in Bonn, while the policy functions were placed in Copenhagen. With the recent reorganization all the work on environment and health, including the activities under THE PEP, were brought to Bonn. This change is expected to result in closer collaboration with technical programmes based in Bonn, in areas relevant to THE PEP, such as air pollution, ambient noise and health impact assessment.
6. Furthermore, Ms. Racioppi recalled the long tradition of the summer meetings of THE PEP Bureau in Rome, Copenhagen and now Bonn and expressed her hope that the work in Bonn will be continued in the same spirit of cooperation.
7. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and expressed its commitment to continue its historic cooperation that started in 1997.
8. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the Secretariat and the report of the 35th meeting of THE PEP Bureau, held on 2-3 May 2019 in Malta (secretariat notes 02 and 04, respectively).

II. TOWARDS THE 5TH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

9. The representative of Austria informed the Bureau about the decision of his government to postpone the Fifth High-level Meeting (5HLM) to 2020. The Chair requested the Bureau's

agreement on this decision in view of the political situation in the host country and of the need for new elections.

10. The Bureau agreed and noted that the decision was still in line with the Paris Declaration statement to hold 5HLM no later than in 2020.
11. The Austrian representative further informed the Bureau about ongoing negotiations between his government and the United Nations Office at Vienna concerning the new dates of 5HLM. He noted that possible dates will be coordinated with the Secretariat to ensure that there are no clashes with other meetings.
12. The final decision about the dates and the venue is expected to be made before the summer break, and it would be promptly communicated to the Bureau.
13. In addition, the Austrian representative informed the Bureau that when the dates are identified the current government would send a save-the-date letter to the member States. The invitation letters will be sent out by the new government once in place.
14. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and discussed the new timeline for the preparation of 5HLM. It was decided that the 17th session of THE PEP Steering Committee would be held on 21-23 October 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
15. The Chair expressed his hope that Georgia would still be able to host the final preparatory meeting for 5HLM, previously scheduled to take place in Tbilisi.
16. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that a meeting room was reserved for 29 June to 01 July 2020 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva in case there would be a need for a preparatory meeting.
17. The Chair noted that the exact timeline for all the preparatory meetings, including the drafting group and the extended Bureau, could be scheduled upon the confirmation of the new dates for the High-level Meeting.

III. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE DRAFTING GROUP

18. The Chair summarized the work of the drafting group, held in The Hague on 6-7 June 2019 (secretariat note 05). The drafting group updated the draft declaration and discussed the programme of 5HLM along with possible speakers.
19. One of the concrete outcomes of the drafting group meeting was the decision to collect the best available data and knowledge focusing on the major topics related to transport, health and environment and prepare a short brochure, “THE PEP facts and figures”, for 5HLM (see section VI below).
20. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and emphasized that, with the postponement of the High-level meeting, there were new opportunities for more ambitious work to be accomplished before 5HLM. The Bureau supported the preparation of the brochure and agreed to discuss it in more detail.
21. Furthermore, the Bureau decided to propose to the Steering Committee to launch THE PEP decade for sustainable mobility transformation at the High-level Meeting as an excellent way to promote THE PEP and raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable and healthy transport at individual, community, national and international levels.

22. The Bureau agreed that the next meetings of THE PEP other than Steering Committee meetings before 5HLM would be called “Preparatory Meetings for the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment”.

IV. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 17TH SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

23. The Secretariat presented the outline of the programme of the 17th session of THE PEP Steering Committee (secretariat note 09) and invited the Bureau to provide guidance on the content in view of reorganizing the preparatory process for the High-level Meeting.
24. The Bureau agreed that the Steering Committee would take place at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, on 21-23 October 2019, starting at 3 p.m. on 21 October and finishing at 5 p.m. on 23 October. A short meeting of the Bureau would follow.
25. Furthermore, it discussed the proposed outline and decided to start the session with an interactive panel discussion or workshop addressing the important challenges faced by the pan-European region in transport, health and environment. It was proposed to formulate two or three questions for discussion and invite keynote speakers who would have an integrated, holistic approach to transport, health and environment issues.
26. The Chair requested his co-chairs, the Dutch member of the Bureau as a lead country representative and the Secretariat to exchange views within the following weeks and come up with the questions and the exact structure of the workshop.
27. The Bureau discussed official and informal documents to be delivered before the Steering Committee and mandated the Secretariat to issue in the three ECE official languages the following documents:
- a. An annotated provisional agenda;
 - b. The report of the seventeenth session of the Steering Committee;
 - c. The draft declaration (with, as attachment, the recommendations for policymakers on eco-driving and conclusions and recommendations on the handbook on transport planning);
 - d. The Programme of work for 2019-2020;
 - e. The status of THE PEP trust fund;
 - f. The revised draft Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion;
 - g. The draft workplan for 2020-2025;
 - h. The executive summary of the study on jobs in green and healthy transport;
 - i. The executive summary of the study on managed mobility.
28. The representative of Switzerland proposed to extend the chairmanship of Mr. Robert Thaler from Austria until 5HLM, in order to ensure stability of the process. The Bureau agreed on this proposal and recommended to the Steering Committee to confirm the decision.

V. THE PEP WORK 2014–2019 AND ITS INPUT TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION

29. The representative of Austria, one of the lead countries of THE PEP Partnership on Cycling, presented the updated draft of the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion (Information note 01).

30. Furthermore, he presented the results of the discussions of the Partnership meeting held in Dublin on 24 June 2019, in the margins of the Velo-City 2019 Conference.
31. The Bureau thanked the Partnership for the excellent work done on the Master Plan and discussed the proposed ideas on how to solve the pending issues left in square brackets, as well as the related text in the draft declaration.
32. After intense discussions on the target of doubling cycling in the region, the Bureau agreed that member States are encouraged to develop national targets with the general goal to increase cycling.
33. Furthermore, the Bureau decided that if member States could not agree on indicators for the baseline to calculate the increase of cycling in the region, the Partnership would provide such indicators. It was also recommended to select those indicators that were in line with UNECE transport statistics.
34. The Bureau also considered that the Partnership could propose a sentence to include in the draft declaration about the impact of electric scooters and similar means of transport. In addition, the High-level Meeting could be an opportunity to launch a new international collaborative project aiming at developing an integrated impact assessment of new means of transport such as electric scooters and others.
35. The Partnership was asked to finalize all remaining issues before 15 July so that the draft Master Plan could be translated into the UNECE languages and presented as a formal document at the Steering Committee session in October.
36. The UNECE consultant presented the study on “Mobility Management - A guide of international best practices” (Information note 05).
37. The Bureau provided concrete comments, including: a recommendation to change “best practices” to “good practices”; to harmonize the structure for all case studies; to include a small introductory paragraph before each of them and to provide more national level examples rather than just individual approaches.
38. The Bureau member from France appreciated that the examples included small cities and rural areas that are difficult to reach.
39. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed his concern about a possible duplication of the work with the handbook being developed under the leadership of his country and France. He proposed to coordinate the work to ensure the coherence between these two processes and the two final products.
40. The Chair encouraged the Bureau members to send comments to the consultant within next 10 days. The consultant requested the Bureau members to provide him with additional good practice examples. The final draft would be presented at the Steering Committee session in October.
41. The representatives of the Russian Federation and France presented the draft Handbook on Sustainable Transport and Urban Planning (Information note 03) and requested the Bureau to include the key messages of the study to the Declaration. They also observed that the two consultants working on the handbook had different approaches that should be coordinated.
42. The key messages are intended to be a political document for decision makers. The draft should be ready by 15 July so that the document could be translated into the three ECE official languages and presented at the 17th session of the Steering Committee.

43. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and recommended that the Russian and French sides coordinate their approaches and come up with the common proposal that would be annexed to the Declaration as “Key messages”. The Bureau further commented on the related text in the declaration.
44. The Austrian representative presented the “Policy Recommendations for Eco-Driving” and informed the Bureau that all comments that had been received before the drafting group meeting had been taken into account.
45. The Chair invited the Bureau to provide additional comments on the related annex and paragraph in the declaration. The representative of Switzerland suggested to reformulate the terminology of electric and alternative vehicles in both the annex and the declaration.
46. The Bureau was not able to discuss the Study on Green and Healthy Jobs in Transport (Information note 04) in detail due to the lack of time. However, the Chair invited the Bureau members to carefully read the draft, including the four scenarios investigated, and provide written comments to the Secretariat within 10 days. The Secretariat was mandated to present the study at the Steering Committee session in October.

VI. DRAFT VIENNA DECLARATION AND “THE PEP FACTS AND FIGURES”

47. The Chair presented the draft Declaration (secretariat note 06) and invited the Bureau members to comment on it. In addition, the Secretariat presented the proposal by the drafting group to start a review on “THE PEP facts and figures” (secretariat note 08) which was discussed in combination with the Declaration and its main challenges.
48. The representative of the Netherlands expressed the strong support of his government to lead the development of such a review or brochure containing concrete data and information on the current challenges related to transport, health and environment in the region.
49. The Bureau discussed a possible working process and a format of the final product. It was emphasized that the brochure should be short, visually attractive, easily understandable and being intended for wide range of target groups, notably for policy makers at senior level. The text should not exceed two pages per challenge and the challenges should be clearly defined. It was also mentioned that the team should be composed of key experts on health, environment and economy, as well as communication expert/s.
50. The Bureau members were invited to join the Netherlands in supporting the study. Austria, as a host country expressed its interest to support the process.
51. The Bureau members noted that the availability of reliable and comparable data for the whole pan-European region could be a challenge. It was recommended to involve the EEA, ITF and OECD. UNECE and WHO committed to provide information sources.
52. The Bureau discussed possible experts who could work on the brochure. The Chair requested the participants to provide the Secretariat within a week the names of experts who could be approached. UNECE and WHO should also consider their inhouse experts.
53. The Bureau would need to further decide how to include the findings of the brochure in the text of the draft Vienna Declaration, particularly in its annex I.
54. The WHO side of the Secretariat proposed the involvement of a dedicated communication officer, who could support the work on the brochure. The Bureau welcomed this information.

55. The Chair summarized the discussion and noted that the Netherlands will lead the preparation process and financially support it, while the Bureau will be actively involved in the work with the support of the Secretariat. The experts recommended by the Bureau may have a role in the Steering Committee session in October 2019. A possible follow-up meeting might be organized after the Steering Committee session.
56. The Bureau further discussed in detail, commented on and amended the draft declaration. The declaration will be translated into three languages for the Steering Committee session.
57. The Secretariat presented THE PEP draft workplan for the period 2020-2025 (secretariat note 07). The Bureau discussed it vis-à-vis the draft declaration, THE PEP Priority Goals and the new timeline for the preparation of 5HLM.
58. The Bureau approved the workplan and decided to invite member States at the Steering Committee meeting to suggest further activities to be included in the workplan.
59. The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to make the document available in the three UNECE languages at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

VII. MANAGING THE PEP

60. The Bureau reviewed the draft Programme of work for 2019-2020 (secretariat note 10) presented by the Secretariat and addressing a range of activities to be pursued up until 5HLM.
61. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to include the preparation of a small leaflet “THE PEP from Paris to Vienna” in the document and to make the programme of work available as a formal document for the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
62. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about expenditures and received donations in 2018 and 2019 and expressed strong concern about the diminishing availability of funds, which will constrain future financial support of participants in meetings and travel of the Secretariat.
63. The Bureau thanked Austria, France, Norway, Russian Federation and Serbia for their contributions and called for further pledges, as the expenditures, in view of the preparation for the High-level Meeting, were increasing. It was mentioned a possibility of addressing fundraising requests to all THE PEP focal points on an annual basis.
64. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to produce an official report on expenditures and received donations for the meeting of the Steering Committee.
65. The representatives of France and Serbia updated the Bureau on the activities related to the development of a national transport, health and environment action plan. In particular, they reported that on 11 July France would organize a study tour in Paris for a Serbian delegation. Representatives from the three ministries will share the existing knowledge and experience with their counterparts.
66. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and expressed an interest in seeing further results. The results would be shared with the Steering Committee in October.
67. The representative of the Russian Federation presented the programme of the next relay-race workshop, to be held in Kazan. The workshop on “Smart urban mobility: the prospects for the modern information and transport technologies in order to improve security and quality of transport services” will be hosted by the Kazan State University of Architecture and Engineering on 12 September 2019.

68. In addition, the Russian representative noted that, in case there would be a need to organize a back-to-back meeting, the Kazan University could host the meeting on 13 September.
69. The Bureau welcomed the information and supported the workshop in Kazan. The Chair requested the Secretariat to inform THE PEP focal points about the event.
70. The representative of Austria reported on the outcomes of the Partnership on “Transdanube.Pearls – Network for Sustainable Mobility along the Danube”, co-financed by the European Union. The Partnership ended in May 2019, having contributed to the development of a system for visitors to reach the “pearl” cities along the Danube without the need to use a car, but using public transport (rail, bus and ferry), cycling and walking.
71. The Chair noted that the project could serve as a model for other regions on how to allocate EU funds, which are also available for non-EU member States, and how to use these funds for the achievement of THE PEP objectives.
72. The Bureau welcomed the outcomes of the Partnership and expressed its interest in having follow-up projects focusing on further development of the system.
73. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the Partnership on the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling, in particular: WHO/Europe continues organizing webinars on the HEAT; a chapter on the HEAT would be included in a book being prepared on transport and health; HEAT is getting increasingly popular outside of Europe, mainly in USA and Canada; the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is willing to support some exploratory work to develop new modules for bike rental schemes and electric vehicles. In case the results of initial work would be promising, consensus building meetings will be held next year and these new features would become part of the formal HEAT.
74. The Bureau welcomed the information provided and noted that the HEAT is a real success story across the UNECE region and beyond.
75. The representatives of the Russian Federation, France and the Secretariat updated the Bureau on activities planned under THE PEP Academy. The representative of the Russian Federation emphasized the importance of having some kind of formal certificate for students of the exchange programmes.
76. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Bonn school on environment and health would take place at the end of October or beginning of November. It would provide a good opportunity to touch upon issues relevant to THE PEP. The Bureau was further informed that WHO had developed an initiative to establish a WHO Academy on the global level. Synergy might be created between THE PEP Academy and the WHO Academy.
77. The Secretariat presented communication activities for 2020 focusing on promoting 5HLM, raising awareness on THE PEP and enhancing synergies among all partners (secretariat note 11).
78. In addition, the Secretariat introduced to the Bureau the WHO communication officer, who is based in the Bonn office and will include support to THE PEP communication matters as part of his portfolio.
79. The Bureau welcomed this information and emphasized the importance of good communication activities for raising the visibility of THE PEP, targeting a broad audience and attracting political support from member States.
80. The Secretariat reminded the Bureau that the annual THE PEP Questionnaire was not intended to be prepared for 2019 in view of 5HLM initially planned for 2019. The

Secretariat invited the member States to express their view on how to move forward with the monitoring of the implementation of THE PEP at national level after 5HLM.

81. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare an informal document for the Steering Committee session analyzing THE PEP Questionnaire as the main monitoring mechanism for the implementation of THE PEP, with the reflection on what had been observed in recent years, e.g. what was useful, what were shortcomings, which new monitoring elements should be considered. This exercise could serve as preparatory work for 5HLM.
82. The Chair of THE PEP closed the meeting, thanking the Bureau members for their active contributions, and the secretariat for the preparations of the meeting.